



President Barack Obama takes part in the unveiling of a statue of Rosa Parks at the U.S. Capitol Building, in Washington, Feb. 27, 2013. Parks is famous for her 1955 refusal to give up her seat on a city bus in Alabama to a white man.

(Stephen Crowley/The New York Times)

# Statue of civil rights heroine Rosa Parks unveiled

**Ashley Southall**  
**© 2013 New York Times**  
**WASHINGTON** – More than half a century after Rosa Parks helped kindle the civil rights movement by refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Alabama, she has become the first black woman to be honored with a life-size statue in the Capitol. At a dedication ceremony Wednesday that was attended by dozens of Parks' relatives, President Barack Obama and congressional leaders paid tribute to

Parks, whose act of defiance and work in the civil rights movement helped spur desegregation across the country and the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Almost simultaneously with the ceremony, the landmark law was facing a legal challenge at the Supreme Court, across the street from the Capitol. "This morning, we celebrate a seamstress, slight of stature but mighty in courage," Obama said. The statue of Parks captures

her waiting to be arrested on Dec. 1, 1955, after she refused to give up her seat for a white passenger on a crowded segregated bus in Montgomery, Ala. She is seated, dressed in a heavy wool coat and clutching her purse as she looks out of an unseen window waiting for the police to cart her off to jail. "In a single moment, with the simplest of gestures, she helped change America and change the world," Obama said. He chronicled how Parks,

despite having held no elected office, lacking wealth and living far from the seat of power, touched off a movement that made it possible for him to become president. "And today, she takes her rightful place among those who shaped this nation's course," he said. "We do well by placing a statue of her here. But we can do no greater honor than to remember and to carry forward the power of her principle and a courage born of conviction."

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican Senate leader, said Parks' decision to get arrested rather than to give up her seat helped unite the country. "For some, Rosa Parks served as an inspiration to stand up against injustice," he said. "For others, she was a spur to reflection and self-examination, and the reconciliation of cherished ideals of freedom, democracy and constitutional rights with the reality of life as others lived it." □



# Global powers baiting Iran to save nuclear talks

**LARA JAKES**

**PETER LEONARD**

**Associated Press**

**ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)**

— World powers offered broader concessions than ever to Iran in attempts Wednesday keep alive diplomatic channels that

official at diplomatic talks in Kazakhstan, who said it represented a “turning point” by world powers to compromise on Tehran’s uranium enrichment program after years of delicate negotiations that nearly dissolved last June.

derground nuclear facility, and offers to remove some trade sanctions that have hurt Iran’s economy. Still, a senior U.S. official said, crippling sanctions on Iran’s oil and financial industries would remain in place as negotiations con-

harder-line proposals that prompted Iran to dig in its heels amid fears that an arms race in neighboring states could sow yet more instability in the already turbulent Mideast. Israel has repeatedly hinted its readiness to strike Iranian nuclear facilities — a military venture the United States likely would be dragged into. The new offer also is expected to force Iran to respond with a reasonable plan of its own — or be seen as a recalcitrant negotiator unwilling to compromise. The proposal “was more realistic than before and had tried to get closer to the Iranian viewpoint in some cases,” Jalili told reporters at the end of two days of negotiations in Kazakhstan’s largest city, Almaty. “We consider this positive — although there is a long distance to reach the suitable point.”

British Foreign Minister William Hague called the talks “useful” and said the new proposal aimed “to build confidence on both sides and move negotiations forward.” “I look forward to further progress,” Hague said in a statement.

Iran maintains it has the

right under international law to enrich uranium to 20 percent — a level that can quickly be elevated into use for nuclear warheads. Tehran claims it needs that level of enriched uranium for reactor fuel and medical isotopes, and has signaled it does not intend to stop. U.N. nuclear inspectors last week confirmed Iran has begun a major upgrade of its program at the country’s main uranium enrichment site. Iran also insists, as a starting point, that world powers must recognize the republic’s right to enrich uranium, and Jalili repeated Wednesday that Tehran must be able to enrich to 20 percent. “Whatever we need, we will of course pursue that — whether it is 5 percent or 20 percent,” Jalili said. “It is important to us to have the 20 percent.” However, that remains a red line to negotiators from the world powers — the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — who put their continued demand that Iran end any uranium enrichment that nears or reaches 20 percent at the heart of the new offer. □



**Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Secretary and chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili leaves a final news conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Wednesday Feb. 27, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Pavel Mikheyev)

seek to rein in the Islamic Republic’s nuclear program and prevent it from building an atomic weapon. The offer was hailed by Saeed Jalili, Iran’s top

The proposal allows Iran to keep a limited amount of highly enriched uranium — but not make any more — stops short of demanding the full shutdown of an un-

tinue. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive talks more candidly. The latest offer marked a small but significant shift from earlier,

## Conservative justices voice skepticism on voting law

**ADAM LIPTAK**

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**WASHINGTON** — A central provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 may be in peril, judging from tough questioning Wednesday from the Supreme Court’s more conservative members. Justice Antonin Scalia called the provision, which requires nine states, mostly in the South, to get federal permission before changing voting procedures, a “perpetuation of racial entitlement.” Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. asked a skeptical question about whether people in the South are more racist than those in the North. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy asked how much longer Alabama must live “under the trusteeship of the United States government.”

The court’s more liberal members, citing data and

history, said Congress remained entitled to make the judgment that the provision was still needed in the covered jurisdictions. “It’s an old disease,” Justice Stephen G. Breyer said of efforts to thwart minority voting. “It’s gotten a lot

better. A lot better. But it’s still there.”

Four of the nine-member court’s five more conservative members asked largely skeptical questions about the law. The fifth, Justice Clarence Thomas, did not ask a question, as

is typical. The law, a landmark achievement of the civil rights era, was challenged by Shelby County, Ala., which said that the requirement had outlived its usefulness and that it imposed an unwarranted badge of shame on the affected jurisdictions.

The county’s lawyer, Bert W. Rein, said that the “problem to which the Voting Rights Act was addressed is solved.”

In reauthorizing the provision for 25 years in 2006, Congress did nothing to change the criteria for inclusion under the provision, relying instead on a formula based on historic practices and voting data from elections held decades ago. Much of the argument concerned that coverage formula.

Should the court strike down the coverage for-

mula, Congress would be free to take a fresh look at what jurisdictions should be covered. But making distinctions among the states based on new criteria may not be politically feasible.

Four years ago, the court signaled that the law may need revision to withstand constitutional scrutiny, hinting that Congress might want to take a fresh look at the places subject to the preclearance provision, called Section 5. Congress failed to act.

Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr. said Congress had made a considered and cautious decision in extending the act.

Debo P. Adegbile, a lawyer with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, said that “our right to vote is what the United States Constitution is about.” □



**Protestors gather outside of the U.S. Supreme Court in support of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, in Washington, Feb. 27, 2013. A central provision of the Voting Rights Act may be in peril, judging from tough questioning on Wednesday from the Supreme Court’s conservative members.**

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)



## Senate confirms Lew as Treasury Secretary for US

M. CRUTSINGER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Senate confirmed Jacob Lew to be Treasury secretary, affirming President Barack Obama's choice of a budget expert at a time when Congress and the White House are at odds over sharp government spending cuts.

The Senate voted 71-26 to support the nomination.

Lew, 57, had most recently served as Obama's chief of staff. He succeeds Timothy Geithner, who completed a tumultuous four-year term in which he helped lead the administration's response to the financial crisis and recession.

He takes over just before automatic spending cuts are set to take effect. He's likely to take part in any negotiations to reverse the cuts, and also in key budget talks next month to continue funding the government. Lew began his government service in the 1980s as an aide to House Speaker Tip O'Neill. He brings nearly three decades of government service to the job, including two stints as White House budget director.

"Mr. Lew is well-qualified to be the nation's next Treasury secretary," said Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, a Democrat. "He has demonstrated time and again that he has the knowledge and expertise" to deal with the country's budget problems. But Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions, who opposed the nomination, said Lew is the architect of the Obama's administration's budget. Sessions said that budget doesn't reduce the deficit enough.

During his confirmation hearing, Lew signaled no major economic policy changes. He advocated a balanced approach to reducing the long-term budget deficit through spending cuts and additional tax revenue.

He said he would be open to reforms to Medicare, but he didn't spell out any details. □

## Pope recalls "joy and light" in final audience

NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — Pope Benedict XVI bid an emotional farewell Wednesday on the eve of his retirement, recalling moments of "joy and light" during his papacy, but also times of difficulty when "it seemed like the Lord was sleeping." Some 150,000 people, many waving banners proclaiming "Grazie!" flooded St. Peter's Square, eager to bear witness to the final hours of a papacy that will go down in history as the first in 600 years to end in resignation rather than death.

Benedict basked in the emotional send-off, taking a long victory lap around the square in an open-sided car, and stopping to kiss and bless half a dozen babies. Seventy cardinals, some tearful, sat in solemn attendance — and gave him a standing ovation at the end of his speech.

Benedict then made a quick exit, forgoing the meet-and-greet session that typically follows his weekly general audience, as if to not prolong the goodbye.

Given the weight of the moment, Benedict also replaced his usual Wednesday catechism lesson with a heartfelt final address, explaining once again why he was retiring and assuring his flock of 1.2 billion that he was not abandoning them.

"To love the church means also to have the courage

to take difficult, painful decisions, always keeping the good of the church in mind, not oneself," Benedict said to thundering applause. He noted that a pontiff has no privacy — neither as

pope, Benedict said he had had "moments of joy and light, but also moments that haven't been easy. ... Moments of turbulent seas and rough winds, as has occurred in the his-

thanked his cardinals and colleagues for their support and for "understanding and respecting this important decision."

The pope's tenure has been beset by the clerical sex abuse scandal, discord over everything from priestly celibacy to women's ordination, and most recently the betrayal by his own butler, who stole his private papers and leaked them to a journalist.

Under a bright sun and blue skies, the square was overflowing with pilgrims and curiosity-seekers. Those who couldn't get in watched on giant TV screens set up along the main boulevard leading to the square. About 50,000 tickets were requested, and in the end, the Vatican estimated that 150,000 people flocked to the farewell.

"It's difficult — the emotion is so big," said Jan Marie, a 53-year-old Roman in his first years as a seminarian. "We came to support the pope's decision."

With chants of "Benedetto!" the mood was far more buoyant than during the pope's final Sunday blessing. It recalled the jubilant turnouts that often accompanied him at World Youth Days and events involving his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

Benedict has said he decided to retire after realizing that, at 85, he simply didn't have the "strength of mind or body" to carry on. □



Faithful are reflected in the roof of Pope Benedict XVI's popemobile as he arrives to celebrate his last general audience in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

pope, nor in his future role as emeritus pope: "He belongs always and forever to everyone, to the whole church."

During his eight years as

tory of the church, when it seemed like the Lord was sleeping."

But he said he never felt alone, that God always guided him, and he

## US official resigns after immigrants are freed

ALICIA A. CALDWELL  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The senior U.S. Homeland Security Department official in charge of arresting and deporting illegal immigrants announced his resignation the same day the agency said that hundreds of people facing deportation had been released from immigration jails due to looming budget cuts, according to a resignation letter obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press. The gov-

ernment said he had told his bosses weeks ago that he planned to retire.

Gary Mead, executive associate director over enforcement and removal operations at Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, disclosed his departure in an email to his staff Tuesday afternoon.

The announcement of the release of the illegal immigrants had come earlier in the day.

President Barack Obama's spokesman, Jay Carney,

said Wednesday that the decision to release the immigrants was made without any input from the White House. He described the immigrants as "low-risk, non-criminal detainees."

The announcement that a few hundred illegal immigrants were being released was among the most significant and direct implications described so far by the Obama administration about the pending, automatic budget cuts that will take effect later this week

under what is known as sequestration.

Republicans in Congress quickly criticized the decision and pressed the Homeland Security Department for details.

In an email to his staff obtained by the AP, Mead said he was leaving the agency at the end of April "with mixed emotions." He did not say what prompted his departure. Mead did not immediately respond to an email and a telephone call. □



# Obama, Congress plan talks after budget cuts hit



The Capitol dome is seen as automatic spending cuts are set to take effect tomorrow, March 1, in Washington, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama will meet Friday with congressional leaders to discuss what to do about \$85 billion in spending cuts that kick in that day, the White House said Wednesday. It's the first face-to-face meeting between Obama and Republican leaders this year and the first sign of any negotiations on a deal to address the crisis. The meeting will come hours after the Obama administration and a divided Congress officially miss the deadline for averting the cuts to defense and other programs, which had been designed to be so ugly that Washington would be forced to avoid them.

Before the White House announcement, there had appeared to be no talks under way to find a better way to tackle the country's \$11.7 trillion debt. Some opposition Republicans had seemed ready to let the cuts take effect and let attention turn to an even more worrying fiscal deadline at the end of March — a possible government shutdown. Both parties have said the cuts could inflict major damage to government programs, the military and the economy at large. Experts believe the standoff is already slowing the fragile economy's recovery from the Great Recession.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Friday's talks are designed to be a "constructive discussion" about how to keep the cuts from having harmful consequences. Obama has been calling for a mix of spending cuts and tax increases to achieve deficit reduction goals. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell said the meeting will focus on ways to reduce government spending, but he indicated he's not backing down on his opposition, shared by many Republicans, to any new tax increases.

Government agencies are faced with cuts designed to force them to chop the same rough percentage across the board, whether

or not certain budgets are already streamlined. They can't shift money from low-priority accounts to more high-priority ones. Everyone gets hit. Agencies have been lining up to warn what would happen to all kinds of services. But Americans appear exhausted by the march of fiscal crises. Three out of 4 say they aren't following the spending cuts issue very closely, according to a Pew Research Center poll released this week.

The spending cuts would carve \$85 billion from the U.S. budget through the end of the fiscal year at the end of September, and \$1.2 trillion over the next decade. The country's deficits have exceeded \$1 trillion the past four years.

Economists agree that policymakers should delay the deep cuts until the economy has strengthened, but they say lawmakers should come up with a realistic long-term plan to fix the debt as soon as possible.

The cuts are "haphazard, and cuts good programs and bad. It's not good budgeting practice," says Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. Obama has warned that the cuts could hurt military readiness and called the move a "self-inflicted wound that doesn't have to happen."

But some opposition Republicans see the battle as their best opportunity to stand their ground and exact deep spending cuts from Obama — even if it means taking money from the Defense Department, a step Republican lawmakers have traditionally opposed.

Top Republicans support a plan that wouldn't replace the cuts but would give Obama's agency heads, such as incoming Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, greater discretion in distributing them. The idea is that money could be transferred from lower-priority accounts. But Obama rejected the idea, saying there's no smart way to cut such a large chunk from the budget over just seven months. □

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## FBI agent: Police officer conspired to torture wife

L. NEUMEISTER  
TOM HAYS  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A New York City police officer and a butcher in India chatted online about the officer's plans to torture and cook his soon-to-be wife and a former college roommate, an FBI agent testified Wednesday.

"I have longed to butcher and cook female meat," Officer Gilberto Valle, 28, told the man identified as Aly Khan early last year, according to the testimony of FBI Agent Corey Walsh. Khan offered to provide a place in Pakistan to kill the woman once she was brought to India, Walsh said.

The exchange was among numerous Internet chats offered by prosecutors to support charges that Valle conspired with others on the Internet to kidnap, rape, kill and eat women that he knew. Also charged with illegally accessing a government database to research potential victims, Valle could face life in prison if convicted.

No women were injured, and defense lawyers have argued he was merely fantasizing on the Internet with no intent to harm.

For two days, Walsh has testified about chats Valle participated in last year with a New Jersey co-defendant and two co-conspirators: a man in Great Britain and Khan, both of whom posed on the Internet as veterans of cannibalism who could teach Valle the skills he would need.

In several emails read by Walsh, Valle seemed eager to make the woman he would marry a few months later an offering of sorts to Khan, though he added: "She is a sweet girl. I like her a lot. But I will move on."

Valle wrote that he could talk her into going on a trip to India before they took her to Pakistan, where they could gag her and take her to a basement, where they could hang her from

her feet and take turns sexually assaulting her before slitting her throat and cooking her.

"I just love the thought of stringing her upside down," Valle wrote in an email displayed to the jury. He also said he would like "to see her suffer" and "slowly roast her until she dies." In a later email, Khan taunted Valle for failing to deliver a woman.

"Are you really into it?" he asked.

"Yes," Valle answered.

"Are you sure?" Khan asked.

"Definitely," Valle said.

Khan, apparently pleased with the response, said: "Get your mind ready. I will guide the rest."

As the instant messages progressed over a series of weeks, Valle began discussing plans to attack a 27-year-old Ohio woman he knew in college.

"I want her to experience being cooked alive," he said in one exchange. "She'll be trussed up like a turkey. ... She'll be terrified, screaming and crying."

He wrote that her death would "definitely make the news" and there will be "plenty of suspects" because she is a prosecutor.

The woman, Andria Noble, testified Monday that she never knew Valle to be violent when they were at the University of Maryland together.

Under cross examination, defense attorney Robert Baum attacked the FBI agent's statement that 40 of the thousands of Internet communications of Valle that he reviewed contained "elements of real crimes."

Baum aimed to show little or no distinction existed between chats or emails the FBI deemed real evidence of a crime and those dismissed as fantasy.

The agent conceded both had similar elements: Valle discussing how to cook women, how much it would cost to abduct them and which women would make good targets. □

## Ex-BP CEO makes cameo at trial

M. KUNZELMAN  
Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Once the object of ridicule and focus of outrage after the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, former BP chief executive Tony Hayward made a cameo appearance Wednesday in a trial to decide how much blame the company must shoulder for the disaster. Hayward didn't attend in person. Instead, he showed up just briefly on a videotape in what may be his only appearance in the courtroom. Hayward, who famously said "I'd like my life back" at the height of the spill, isn't expected to take the witness stand in the high-stakes trial. Hayward did testify in person before Congress and gave a videotaped deposition for this trial, but his role may be limited here by his lack of direct knowledge of the drilling operations on the Deepwater Horizon.

Still, attorneys for the U.S. government and Gulf Coast residents and businesses showed a 20-minute snippet of his deposition,



Lamar McKay, former president of BP America and current chief executive of BP's Upstream unit, leaves Federal Court after testifying in New Orleans, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

projecting the video on a large white screen in the courtroom. The attorneys have said the London-based company bears most of the blame for the spill and they accused BP of putting profits ahead of safety by cutting corners on a project that was over budget and behind schedule.

"I believe that the role of

leaders is very important in shaping the culture of an organization," Hayward said in the videotape.

He also said cost-cutting measures in the years before the 2010 spill did not have an effect on drilling operations, comments that differed from excerpts of a videotaped deposition from Kevin Lacy, who served as BP's senior vice president for drilling operations in the Gulf before resigning several months before the spill.

Lacy said BP slashed between \$250 million and \$300 million from its Gulf drilling budget from 2008 to 2009 while at the same time its production rose by more than 50 percent.

"I was never given a directive to cut corners or deliver something not safely, but there was tremendous pressure on costs," Lacy said.

U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier is presiding over the trial designed to identify the causes of BP's Macondo well blowout and assign percentages of fault to the companies involved. □



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# Nominee for SEC reassures skeptics

**BEN PROTESS**

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Mary Jo White's path to the Securities and Exchange Commission has reached a crucial juncture: the congressional charm campaign.

Lawmakers are scrutinizing White before her Senate confirmation hearing, raising questions about the former prosecutor's lack of regulatory experience and the challenge of policing Wall Street firms she recently defended in private practice. But White is seeking to quell concerns about potential conflicts of

vice and private practice, a concern that has loomed since President Barack Obama nominated White in January.

"As a government official, I believe I have an established track record and the reputation of being tough, but fair," she said in the document.

White also offered a previously undisclosed concession, vowing "as far as can be foreseen," never to return to Debevoise & Plimpton, where she had built a lucrative legal practice.

To avert potential conflicts stemming from her work on

In a meeting Tuesday with Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, White did little to alleviate the fears.

"Senator Brown respects Ms. White's credentials and experience but is concerned with Washington's long-held bias toward Wall Street," his spokeswoman, Meghan Dubyak, said in a statement. "He pushed Ms. White" to explain "whether her previous employment or her spouse's current employment could cause her to recuse herself from key business facing the SEC." The agency has already fallen behind in writing doz-



**Mary Jo White, a former U.S. attorney turned white collar defense lawyer, reaches to shake hands with President Barack Obama at the White House in Washington.**

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

interest.

She recently scheduled meetings with Senate Banking Committee members, who must clear her nomination, and answered a 20-page boilerplate questionnaire detailing her qualifications, according to a copy provided to The New York Times. The document sheds new light on her list of Wall Street clients, including little-known work performed for HSBC's former chief executive. It also describes her ties to New York Democratic causes and laurels earned both as a defense lawyer and federal prosecutor.

The questionnaire, created by the banking committee, focused significant attention on her movement through the revolving door between government ser-

vice and private practice, a concern that has loomed since President Barack Obama nominated White in January. White White's nomination is expected to sail through the committee before receiving full Senate approval, four congressional officials who spoke anonymously warned that some Democrats have lingering reservations.

The Democrats note that her husband, John W. White, is co-chairman of the corporate governance practice at Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where he represents many of the companies that the SEC regulates. They also question whether White's recusals, even if well-intentioned, could cripple her ability to run the agency.

ens of new rules for Wall Street.

White's supporters counter that, before the White House announced the appointment, the Office of Government Ethics vetted her disclosures. The nonpartisan officials concluded that, despite her recusals, White could effectively run the agency.

Her supporters also trumpet her long tenure as a tenacious prosecutor. During stints as a federal prosecutor in Brooklyn and as the first woman U.S. attorney in Manhattan, she helped oversee the prosecution of crime figure John Gotti and directed the case against those responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. The cases won her praise from several lawmakers. □

## Q & A ON THE NEWS

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**Q: What are the occupations of the members of Congress?**

-- Jackie Welden, Peachtree City, Ga.

**A:** Attorney is the most listed occupation among members of the 113th Congress, with 128 lawyers in the House of Representatives and 45 in the Senate, according to Bloomberg Businessweek. There are 108 business people in the House and 22 in the Senate; 44 educators in the House and seven in the Senate; and 29 medical professionals in the House and three in the Senate. Other occupations represented in Congress include career politician, farmer/rancher, clergy, engineer, social worker, career military/law enforcement, carpenter, physicist, secretary, accountant, non-profit and community workers and 10 who listed their occupation as entertainment/media, among others.

**Q: How many people will lose their jobs when the post office does away with Saturday delivery?**

-- Lil Kiser, Loganville, Ga.

**A:** About 20,000 to 25,000 letter carriers, clerks and mail sorters will lose their jobs when the U.S. Postal Service ends Saturday delivery, beginning on Aug. 5. Some job losses will be through attrition, but there also could be buyouts and reassignments, officials said. Overtime pay could also be cut. The USPS reports it lost \$15.9 billion in the last fiscal year.

**Q: We see a lot of hoopla over Iran's nuclear program. But when did Israel get approval for their nuclear weapons, and by whom?**

-- Donald Varn, Conyers, Ga.

**A:** Israel has never confirmed that it has a nuclear arsenal, but the International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates that Israel has at least 200 nuclear warheads, according to Bloomberg. It's believed Israel has had nuclear weapons since the 1960s, but an Israeli Embassy spokesman told The Washington Post last year that "Israel will not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East." Since it hasn't signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Israel "is under no legal obligation to submit its major nuclear facility at Dimona to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections. Iran, in contrast, did sign the treaty and thus agrees to periodic inspections," the Post wrote.

**Q: Is there any truth to gasoline prices being linked to mixtures related to seasonal temperatures or altitude?**

-- George Cannon, Cumming, Ga.

**A:** Gas prices often are affected when refineries switch seasonal blends, which are formulated for higher or lower temperatures. There are many gas blends in the U.S. designed to meet federal or local guidelines. Refineries are preparing summer blends of gas, which are formulated specifically for hotter summer months, just one of several factors leading to the rise in gas prices this year. These factors also include the price of crude oil, which has risen 10 percent in the past two months, and lower international production. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported that the U.S. retail price of regular gasoline rose 45 cents per gallon from the start of the year through Feb. 18, with the national average reaching \$3.75 a gallon that day. The price "of Brent crude, the waterborne light sweet crude grade that drives the wholesale price of gasoline sold in most U.S. regions, rose about \$6 per barrel, or about 15 cents per gallon," the EIA wrote on its website. □

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## Asian-American diversity complicates California vote

NORIMITSU ONISHI

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**CUPERTINO, Calif.** — Home to Apple, Google and other high-tech pioneers, the 17th Congressional District here recorded a political first in last fall's elections, becoming the first majority Asian-American district in

politics and civil rights were shaped by his internment during World War II, Honda, 71, helped build a network for Asian-American political aspirants here and served as a mentor to many. But a possible challenge to Honda in 2014 — coming from Ro Khanna, 36, an In-

to decide whether to run. Honda, perhaps in one of the earliest moves to fend off a potential challenge next year, recently secured the endorsements of President Barack Obama, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California and other Democrats. The possible face-off has put

has wanted him to run for office for a long time." Hasan, who said he would not take a position until Khanna decided whether to run, has held fundraisers for both Honda and Khanna.

California's system of non-partisan redistricting created the 17th Congressional District, where Asian-Americans total 51 percent of the population. Besides the symbolism, Asian-American politicians and activists had long sought such a district from which to build power nationally.

Although the district includes parts of San Jose, suburbs such as Cupertino, Milpitas and Fremont have the highest concentration of Asian-Americans, especially the most recent waves of immigrants, said James S. Lai, the director of ethnic studies at Santa Clara University. Institutions like the Silicon Valley Asian Pacific American Democratic Club remain under the leadership of more established groups like Japanese-Americans and Chinese-Americans. The San Jose airport, for example, is named after Norman Y. Mineta, the Japanese-American politician.

"The question is what Asian Indians feel ideologically aligned with," Lai said. "This election could be an example of whether Asian Indians see themselves along the lines of pan-Asian, progressive politics that are part of what Mike Honda stands for, or whether they will they go for his challenger's politics, which are more conservative and

pro-business?"

A teacher, Honda got his political start in 1971 when Mineta, as mayor of San Jose, appointed him to the planning commission. Honda rose steadily — from the school board to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to the State Assembly — before being elected to Congress in 2000 in a district that had been represented by Mineta.

In a district that is heavily Democratic but includes a large percentage of undeclared voters, Khanna could try to woo moderate Democrats from Honda, who has a liberal voting record and favors higher taxes.

In an interview, Khanna said he favored "a pro-economic growth agenda" for the area and the country. The district's majority Asian-American status, he said, "can be a huge asset to our nation in figuring out the right policies for global competitiveness."

His economic message draws favorable comments from some Democrats, though none was willing to say so publicly for fear of offending Honda. Mayor Jose Esteves of Milpitas, a Republican and Filipino-American, recently endorsed Khanna and has been gathering support for him among other Filipino-Americans.

"Ro is more focused on Silicon Valley," Esteves said.

"We could have gotten behind Ro if he ran against Stark, but he's going against our leader," said Paul Fong, a Chinese-American assemblyman. □



Ro Khanna, an Indian-American lawyer who served as a deputy assistant secretary in the Commerce Department, talks with supporters at a restaurant in Milpitas, Calif., Feb. 26, 2013.

(Jim Wilson/The New York Times)

the mainland United States. At the same time, voters sent candidates of Asian descent to the Legislature and to local city councils like the one here, where Asian-Americans account for 63 percent of the population.

The congressional seat itself was easily retained by Michael M. Honda, a Democrat first elected in 2000 and one of the most influential Asian-Americans in Congress. A Japanese-American whose views on

dian-American lawyer who served as a deputy assistant secretary in the Commerce Department and is a rising star in the Democratic Party — has already set off intense maneuvering inside the district. Even as Asian-Americans represent the nation's fastest-growing racial group, the attention focused on this potential contest underscores the diversity, and possibly emerging rivalries, among different Asian groups.

Khanna said he has yet

many Asian-Americans here, especially Indian-Americans, in an awkward situation.

"I really appreciate what the congressman has done for the Asian-American community, and I have worked closely with him," said Kamil Hasan, an Indian-American who has long been involved in the tech industry and the Democratic Party. "Ro Khanna would be a very strong candidate in whichever district he runs. The Indian community



# US, Europe move to expand role in Syrian conflict

**BRADLEY KLAPPER**

**MATTHEW LEE**

**Associated Press**

**ROME (AP)** — The United States and some European allies are edging closer to direct involvement in Syria's civil war with plans to deliver meals, medical kits and other forms of nonlethal assistance to the rebels battling President Bashar Assad.

The U.S., Britain, France and Italy aren't planning to supply the Free Syrian Army with weapons or ammunition. But moves are afoot to significantly boost the size and scope of their aid to the political and military opposition. Such decisions could be announced as early as Thursday at an international conference on Syria in Rome.

Britain and France are keen to give the rebels the means to protect themselves from attacks by Assad's forces, including Scud missiles fired in recent days against the city of Aleppo, U.S. and European officials say.

Assistance could mean combat armor, vehicles and other equipment not

deemed to be offensive, the officials said. It could include training in battle-field medical care and the protection of human rights,

not received direct U.S. assistance. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was expected to announce the new contributions at the

direct military aid to carefully screened members of the Free Syrian Army if the nearly 2-year conflict continues. Some 70,000 people

ways to increase pressure on Assad to leave.

Washington has provided \$385 million in humanitarian aid to Syria's war-weary population and \$54 million in communications equipment, medical supplies and other nonlethal assistance to Syria's political opposition. The U.S. also has screen rebel groups for Turkey and American allies in the Arab world that have armed rebel fighters. No U.S. dollars or provisions have gone directly to rebels. That decision reflects concerns about forces that have allied themselves with more radical Islamic elements since Assad's initial crackdown on peaceful protesters in March 2011. Kerry said Wednesday in Paris that both the U.S. and Europe want a negotiated solution to the crisis and would speak to the leaders of the Syrian National Coalition about that. He also said the world must be prepared to do more to support the rebels and he accused Assad's government of engaging in "criminal behavior."

"We want their advice on how we can accelerate the prospects of a political solution because that is what we believe is the best path to peace, the best way to protect the interests of the Syrian people, the best way to end the killing and the violence," he said at a news conference with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius.

"That may require us to change President Assad's current calculation," Kerry said. "He needs to know that he can't shoot his way out of this. And so we need to convince him of that, and I think the opposition needs more help in order to be able to do that."

Fabius offered a similar assessment. "The situation is unbearable and we need to find the means to a transition and for Assad's departure," he said. "We agree all of us on the fact that Mr. Bashar Assad has to quit." Britain's Foreign Office also said it would increase its support for Syria's opposition. □



**U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, meets with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, right, in Rome, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013. The United States is looking for more tangible ways to support Syria's rebels and bolster a fledgling political movement that is struggling to deliver basic services after nearly two years of civil war, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said Wednesday.**

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, Pool)

they said.

For now, the Obama administration is advancing more modestly. It is nearing a decision whether to give ready-made meals and medical supplies to the opposition fighters, who have

Rome conference, in addition to tens of millions of dollars intended for rule of law and governance programs.

The shifts in strategy are part of a step-by-step process that could lead to

have died in the fighting.

The European Union last week renewed an arms embargo against Syria for three months. But foreign ministers made clear that the decision could be reviewed while they look at

## Italy turmoil challenging ECB backstop

**DAVID McHUGH**

**VICTOR L. SIMPSON**

**Associated Press**

**ROME (AP)** — Why has Italy's muddled election result spooked global investors so much? Because it raises unsettling questions about the availability of the financial safety net that has kept Europe from catastrophe for the past six months. That safety net is a crucial offer from the European Central Bank to buy unlimited quantities of struggling countries' bonds. The one catch was that participating countries had to commit to austerity measures — such as spending cuts and tax increases to lower their deficits.

And if there's any clear message from the Italian elections, it's that voters rejected austerity.

If Italy can't — or won't — agree to cuts and re-

forms to promote stronger growth, the ECB can't help.

That would leave Italy defenseless if its borrowing costs rise to unmanageable levels and into default territory. And if Italy fails, Europe can't afford to bail it out.

A top European Central Bank official underlined Wednesday that any country that wants to use the crucial backstop will have to meet stiff conditions and agree to take steps to cut its deficit.

Peter Praet, the top ECB official in charge of its economic analysis and forecasts, did not mention Italy in the text of his speech in Frankfurt, Germany. But he warned that the bond-purchase shield "will only be activated in cases where the benefiting country has signed up to strict and ef-

fective conditionality," meaning an agreement to take concrete steps to curb its financial problems. Praet's warning came as Italy saw its borrowing costs rise as it sold €6.5 billion (\$8.5 billion) of 10-year and five-year bonds. The interest yield rose to 4.83 percent from 4.17 percent a month ago for the 10-year and to 3.59 percent from 2.94 percent for the five-year.

So far, Italy's borrowing costs have risen only moderately. But the fear is that continuing turmoil could let them climb toward the heights of late 2011 and early 2012 — a hefty 7 percent.

The ECB bond purchase program has been given most of the credit for the easing of the euro-zone debt crisis in recent months. Before the ECB

offered Sept. 6 to buy unlimited amounts of government bonds issued by a struggling country, Italy and Spain were facing borrowing costs that would have proved crippling in the long term. The fear was that these two big economies — the third- and fourth-largest among the 17 European Union countries that use the euro — would be pushed into defaulting on their debts.

No bonds have been bought under the ECB plan, but the mere offer reassured investors and sent borrowing costs lower for debt-plagued countries such as Italy and Spain.

"Basically investors are taking this on faith," said Simon Tilford, chief economist at the Center for European Reform in London. The Italian result risks undermining that faith. □





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## Diplomats urge EU to block new Jerusalem settlements

**KARIN LAUB**  
**Associated Press**  
**RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)** — Nearly two dozen European diplomats have urged the EU to intensify efforts to block Israeli settlement in and near Jerusalem, saying such construction on occupied lands is the "single biggest threat" to a Mideast peace deal, according to an internal report Wednesday.

The diplomats also said the EU must ensure that aid to Israel and preferential trade agreements don't inadvertently benefit settlements, according to the report obtained by The Associated Press.

They recommended that the EU "prevent, discourage and raise awareness" of direct investments by European companies in settlements, but did not elaborate.

While the recommendations are non-binding, the report, endorsed by 22 heads of mission posted in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, reflects Israel's growing international isolation over the settlement issue.

President Barack Obama confronted Israel over settlements early in his first term, but then backed off, and it's not clear if he will make another serious attempt to pressure Israel in his second term.

Israel built dozens of settlements after capturing the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in 1967. More than half a million Israelis live in settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, complicating efforts to partition the land under a future peace deal. Israel pulled out of Gaza in 2005. "Settlement construction remains the single biggest

threat to the two-state solution," the report said, portraying the policy as "systematic, deliberate and provocative."

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said he had not seen the EU report, only what was published in the media. "The mission of a diplomat is to build bridges, not to foster confrontations," he said.

"The EU consuls have therefore failed miserably in their mission."

The issue of settlements must be addressed in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, Palmor said.

The Palestinians have said they will not resume negotiations unless Israel freezes settlement construction on lands they claim for their state, including the Gaza Strip, where Israel no longer has settlements.

Palestinians have negotiated in the past while settlement expansion continued, but said they are no longer willing to engage in open-ended negotiations they suspect largely serve Israel as a diplomatic cover for tightening its grip on occupied lands through settlements.

The EU report singled out Israeli policies in east Jerusalem, particularly several major settlement projects being planned there.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has often come out against dividing Jerusalem. Israel annexed the eastern sector, sought by the Palestinians as a capital, weeks after capturing it in the 1967 Mideast war, a move not recognized internationally. Beyond its greatly expanded borders of Jerusalem, Israel has not annexed West Bank territory. □

## Taliban kill 17 Afghans in attacks

**AMIR SHAH**  
**RAHIM FAIEZ**  
**Associated Press**  
**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** — Taliban insurgents poisoned, then shot and killed 17 people as they slept at a local police post in eastern Afghanistan, one of two attacks in as many days targeting Afghan security forces, an official said Wednesday.

It's unclear how the militants were able to drug people inside the post before firing bullets into their incapacitated bodies Tuesday night, said Ab-

the men in their sleep, but denied they had been poisoned.

Residents of Andar took up arms last spring and chased out insurgents. The villagers don't readily embrace any outside authority, be it the Taliban, the Afghan government or the U.S.-led NATO military coalition.

The lightly trained village defense force, which is overseen by the Interior Ministry, is tasked with helping bring security to remote areas. But President Hamid Karzai has expressed con-

went under the chassis as if to fix something, according to a witness. Watching from across the street, office worker Ahmad Shakib said he thought for a moment the man might have been a mechanic.

"I thought to myself, what is this crazy man doing? And then there was a blast and flames," that engulfed the undercarriage, he said. "It was a very loud explosion. I still cannot really hear."

Bakery owner Mirza Khan said the blast shattered the windows of his nearby shop where people were waiting to buy bread, leaving six wounded.

The Afghan government uses buses to ferry soldiers, police and office workers into the city center on regular routes for work, and the vehicles have been a common target for insurgents.

Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, also claimed responsibility for the Kabul bombing.

The attack occurred three days after a would-be car bomber was shot dead by police in downtown Kabul. That assailant was driving a vehicle packed with explosives and officials said he appeared to be targeting an intelligence agency office.

It also comes as the U.S.-led military coalition in the country is backing off from its claim that Taliban attacks dropped in 2012, tacitly acknowledging a hole in its widely repeated argument that violence is easing and that the insurgency is in steep decline.

Some 100,000 international troops are helping secure Afghanistan at the moment, but most, including many of the 66,000 Americans, are expected to finish their withdrawal by the end of 2014. □



**An Afghan firefighter man washes the scene of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013.**

**(AP Photo/Musadeq Sadeq)**

dul Jamhe Jamhe, a government official in Ghazni province.

Ten members of the Afghan Local Police, a village-level defense force backed by the U.S. military and Afghan government, and seven of their civilian friends died in the attack, said Provincial Gov. Musa Khan Akbarzada. He said there was a conspiracy of some sort but declined to confirm if poison was involved.

Taliban spokesman Zabullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack in Andar district.

He told The Associated Press by telephone that the attackers fatally shot

cern that without careful vetting, the program could end up arming local troublemakers, strongmen or criminals.

In other violence, a suicide bomber slid under a bus full of Afghan soldiers and blew himself up in Kabul, wounding 10 in an attack that underscored the insurgency's ability to attack in the heavily guarded capital. Kabul police said at least six soldiers and four civilians were wounded. The suicide attacker died.

The bomber, wearing a black overcoat, approached the bus purposefully in heavy morning snow as soldiers were boarding, set down his umbrella and



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## Draghi: Reforms must continue despite social cost

**DAVID McHUGH**  
**Associated Press**

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**

— European Central Bank President Mario Draghi has acknowledged that austerity measures and economic reforms can have heavy social costs — but argues they are the way to a fairer society because they can reduce injustices such as widespread youth unemployment.

Draghi's remarks Wednesday come two days after an election in his native Italy, in which a majority of voters supported parties campaigning against austerity. The spending cuts and tax increases were carried out by Prime Minister Mario Monti over the past 15 months to lower the government's massive debt burden and restore confidence in the 17-country euro, but they are blamed for worsening the recession and unemployment. Draghi did not mention Italy in the text of his speech at the Catholic Academy in Munich, where he focused on ethical issues connected with economics. He paid tribute to efforts by the city's former archbishop, Pope Benedict XVI, to emphasize social justice in the global economy, and mentioned his own education at a Jesuit-run Catholic school.

But he addressed indirectly Europeans' growing indignation over austerity measures. "The benefits of the painful actions undertaken so far have not yet materialized," he said. "And this means that economic adjustment is coming at a

heavy social cost... We are fully aware of the human dimension that lies behind it." Calling unemployment "a tragedy," he urged governments to press ahead with fixing structural problems in their economies so that they can grow

more strongly. He singled out the high rate of youth unemployment, which is over 50 percent in Greece and Spain. "Is that fair, that as a result, this generation has to bear the bulk of the burden in the downturn?" he asked. "That's why I

say that reforms that make economies work better also make them fairer." Monti reduced the deficit but saw some key reforms to increase growth and reduce unemployment blunted by political opposition. □

## Greek former mayor gets life for embezzlement

**C. KANTOURIS**

**Associated Press**

**THESSALONIKI, Greece**

**(AP)** — The former mayor of Greece's second-largest city and two former top municipal officials were sentenced to life in prison Wednesday, after a court convicted them of embezzling more than €17 million (\$22 million) in city funds. The court ruled that Vasilis Papageorgopoulos, a former champion sprinter who was Thessaloniki's mayor from 1999-2010 and previously a conservative politician, was a key part of the scam. Papageorgopoulos, 65, denied any wrongdoing.

"I declare that I have nothing to do with this case," he told the Thessaloniki court, which convicted him of direct complicity in embezzlement. "Some people will go to their graves weighed down by remorse."

He claimed his trial had turned into a "political process," conducted "to sat-



**The municipality's former general secretary, Mihalis Lemousias, is escorted by police officers to a police van in Thessaloniki on Wednesday Feb. 27, 2013. (AP Photo/Nikolas Giakoumidis)**

isfy the general mood that calls for politicians' blood." Greece is in the throes of a major financial crisis after years of inept public financial stewardship. Popular sentiment runs hot against mainstream politicians seen as responsible for the crisis, which has led to repeated income cuts and tax hikes amid a six-year recession and record-high unemployment.

Papageorgopoulos, a dentist, was a lawmaker with the now-governing New Democracy party from 1981-2008, and served as a junior minister for sport in the early 1990s.

The municipality's former general secretary, Michalis Lemoussias, and former treasurer Panagiotis Saxonis were also given life sentences.

All three appealed their convictions. They were to be jailed later Wednesday. Two former financial directors were sentenced to 10 and 15 years each, and were released pending their appeal.

Saxonis was responsible for forwarding to social security funds the contributions withheld from municipal employees' salaries. The court found that he allegedly kept that money

and, after retaining a 10 percent cut for himself, forwarded the rest to Lemoussias — who allegedly split it with Papageorgopoulos.

The funds were allegedly initially banked in a joint account in the names of Papageorgopoulos and Lemoussias.

A judicial probe was ordered after one of the funds involved noticed that it had not been receiving contributions. Papageorgopoulos has also been charged with alleged money laundering and has been indicted to stand trial over another case of missing municipal funds. □

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## Loved ones salute New Zealand dad killed by shark

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) —

About 150 friends and family of Adam Strange wrote messages to him in the sand and stepped into the water Thursday at a New Zealand beach to say goodbye after he was killed Wednesday by a large shark.

Strange, 46, was an award-winning television and short film director and the father of a 2-year-old girl. He was swimming near popular Muriwai Beach Wednesday when he was attacked by the shark that was possibly 14 feet (4 meters) long.

Police attempting to save him raced out in inflatable boats and fired gunshots at the enormous predator, which they say rolled away and disappeared. They

couldn't confirm if they'd killed it. Police were able to recover Strange's body.

Muriwai and several nearby beaches remained closed for swimming after the fatal attack, one of only about a dozen in New Zealand in

the past 180 years.

Friend Adam Stevens said the Thursday service was run by indigenous Maori who removed the "tapu" or spiritual restriction at the beach. He said it was a "perfect tribute" to a man

who spent much of his time swimming and surfing.

"He was a very robust, big, barrel-chested surfer," Stevens said. "He was basically completely obsessed with the ocean, with paddle boards and body surfing, everything. His garage was like a museum of surf craft."

According to Police Inspector Shawn Rutene, Strange was about 200 meters (650 feet) from the shore when he was attacked by a shark that police estimated was up to four meters (14 feet) long.

Stevens said his friend was planning to swim about 1 1/2 kilometers (one mile) Wednesday as he tested out some new goggles and trained for an annual en-

durance swim from Auckland to Rangitoto Island. The 4.5 kilometer (2.8 mile) swim takes place on Sunday.

"I surfed with him the day before," Stevens said. "He wasn't that pleased with his fitness level but was just getting into the right headspace and finding the motivation to get out there."

Pio Mose, who was fishing at the beach Wednesday, told the New Zealand Herald newspaper he saw Strange struggle against the huge shark. Mose yelled at Strange to swim to the rocks, but it was too late.

"All of a sudden there was blood everywhere," Mose said.

"I was shaking, scared, panicked." □



Police comfort a woman after a man is attacked by a shark at Muriwai Beach near Auckland, New Zealand, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013. Police said a man was found dead in the water after being "bitten by a large shark."

(AP Photo/Ross Land)

## Canada seeks extradition of Bahamas resident

JEFF TODD

Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) —

Canadian authorities are seeking the extradition of a prominent Bahamas resident who is wanted for alleged fraud involving a hospital contract, authorities said Wednesday.

Canada's anti-corruption police issued an arrest warrant early Wednesday for Dr. Arthur Porter, a physician who faces six fraud-related charges related to the construction of a Montreal hospital.

Porter is the former head watchdog of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the country's spy agency. He was appointed to that post by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. He is also the former chief of Canada's McGill University Health Center, a job he left in 2011 amid allegations of mismanagement.

In the Bahamas, Porter is managing director of a private cancer treatment center in the islands' capital of Nassau. He has made the upscale, gated community of Old Fort Bay his permanent residence since moving to the archipelago off the eastern coast of Florida in 2011.

Anne Frederick Laurence, spokeswoman for Canada's anti-corruption police, said extradition request procedures were "under way." Bahamian Foreign Affairs Minister Fred Mitchell declined to comment.

Porter issued a statement saying he was "surprised and angered" to hear about the Canadian arrest warrant via the press.

"Since I left Montreal in 2011, I have been subjected to scurrilous and scandalous allegations in the media. However, I have never been contacted by

the Montreal, Quebec, or Canadian authorities in regard to this or any other matter," Porter said in his emailed statement.

Four other men are wanted in connection with the alleged fraud in Montreal. In recent weeks, the Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services has blamed Porter and the former board of the McGill University Health Center for spiraling cost overruns for the new hospital construction.

A Canadian newspaper, the National Post, says Porter resigned from his post at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service after the paper reported that he had a "secret contract" with an international businessman to solicit \$120 million in Russian government financing for the West African nation of Sierra Leone. The newspaper says Porter was born in Sierra Leone. □



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# Ballooning crash deepens pall on a tourism-dry Luxor, Egypt

**AYA BATRAWY  
MAGGIE MICHAEL  
Associated Press**

**LUXOR, Egypt (AP)** — The fiery crash of a sightseeing balloon that killed 19 tourists has cast a further pall over this city of an-

cuss the balloon disaster, according to state media. Hours after the crash, he spoke live on TV at a meeting with political leaders — but only about upcoming parliamentary elections, without mentioning the

umental ancient temples in Luxor and the Valley of the Kings, the desert valley where many of ancient Egypt's pharaohs, including Tutankhamun, were buried. With little else to keep it



Foreign tourists visit the Hatshepsut Temple, in Luxor, Egypt, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013.

(AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

cient temples and tombs, already perhaps the hardest hit by Egypt's two-year drop in tourism, which has left hotels here empty and residents desperate for income.

Some connected to the tourist trade in Luxor, a city utterly dependent on foreign visitors to survive, were seething with anger Wednesday at the country's Islamist president for his silence over the crash. Mohammed Morsi has yet to publicly speak about the tragedy — and some here took that not just as insensitivity to the victims' families but as indifference to the vital tourism trade. "Morsi should have taken a plane and come here," Salah Zaky, one of the owners of the five-star Steigenberger Hotel in Luxor, 510 kilometers (320 miles) south of Cairo. "The whole world is watching and he is asleep. It's as if there is no government."

Morsi spoke by telephone to Luxor's governor to dis-

crash.

"They don't care if this hotel closes. They only care about the ballot box," Zaky said, referring to the Muslim Brotherhood, the fundamentalist group from which Morsi hails and which has dominated all elections held since Mubarak's ouster.

The hot air balloon was carrying 20 tourists from Hong Kong, Japan, Britain, Belgium and France on a sunrise flight over Luxor's dramatic pharaonic sites and desert landscape.

For residents of Luxor, the main city in a province of around 1 million people, the tragedy only further added to their worries over the tourism trade on which they rely. Tourism is the main employer in the area — and practically the only industry besides farming and a sole sugar factory processing the region's sugar cane crops.

Nearly everyone relies in some way on the visitors who come to visit the mon-

going, the city has been hit hard with many foreign visitors staying away from Egypt amid the turmoil, protests and instability that have plagued the country since the fall of autocrat Hosni Mubarak in February 2011.

The number of tourists coming to Egypt fell to 9.8 million in 2011 from 14.7 million the year before, and revenues plunged 30 percent to \$8.8 billion. Last year, the numbers climbed up to just over 10 million, but most tourists go to the beach resorts of the Red Sea, staying away from Nile Valley sites like Luxor.

In Luxor, "when tourism stalls, it affects the tour agents, the drivers, the boat owners, vegetable and fruit sellers, the groceries, the butchers and everybody else who are part of the cycle of life of tourism," said tour agent Medhat Ramadan, who nervously checked his iPad for the latest news on the crash. □

# Tweets allow a peek at life in North Korea in real time

**JEAN H. LEE  
Associated Press**

"Hello world from comms center in (hash)Pyongyang."

That Twitter missive, sent Monday from Koryolink's main service center in downtown Pyongyang using my iPhone, marked a milestone for North Korea: It was believed to be the first tweet sent from a cell-phone using the country's new 3G mobile data service.

Later, as we were driving through Pyongyang, I used my iPhone to snap a photo of a new roadside banner referring to North Korea's controversial Feb. 12 nuclear test while AP's Chief Asia photographer David Guttenfelder shot an image of a commuter walking beneath a bridge at dusk. We uploaded these images to Instagram geo-tagged "Pyongyang."

Pretty ordinary stuff in the world of social media, but revolutionary for North Korea, a country with an intricate set of rules designed to stage manage the flow of images and information both inside and beyond its borders.

All we had to do when we arrived in February was show our passports, fill out a registration form, provide our phones' IMEI numbers and pop in our Koryolink SIM cards. It's a costly luxury: SIM cards are 50 euros, or about \$70, and while calls to Switzerland are an inexplicably cheap 38 euro cents a minute, calls to the U.S. cost about \$8 a minute.

After reporting last week on the imminent availability of 3G mobile Internet, we turned up at the Koryolink offices Monday to be among the first ones to activate the service.

After paying a steep 75-euro fee and sending a text to activate the service, we waited for the 3G symbol to pop up on our phones.

Moments later, I sent the inaugural tweet, which was queued up and ready to go. There was a little cel-



In this photo posted on Instagram, a man walks in Pyongyang, North Korea, under a new roadside banner referring to North Korea's controversial Feb. 12 nuclear test Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013.

(AP Photo/Jean H. Lee)

ebration that morning in the Koryolink office among the Egyptians who labored to set up the service, and their North Korean partners.

Our North Korean colleagues watched with surprise as we showed them we could surf the Internet from our phones.

Koreans, North and South, love gadgets.

Leader Kim Jong Un has pushed science and technology as major policy directives, and we're starting to see more laptops in North Korean offices.

Many snapshots were captured as we went about our daily life working in North Korea: a man getting a haircut at a barber shop, traffic cops lacing up ice skates, a villager hauling a bundle of firewood on her back as she trudges through a snowy field. Some are quirky, unexpected things that catch our attention: a blinking Christmas tree in February, the cartoon "Madagascar" showing on state TV, a basket of baguettes at the supermarket.

And some are politically telling: the empty highway from Pyongyang, people piling onto trucks for transportation, postcards showing soldiers attacking Americans, banners praising the scientists who sent a rocket into space. □





## AAA ready to extend its General Aviation Apron!

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GENERAL CONTRACTOR	Joint Venture Arubaanse Wegenbouw Mij. & Jansen de Jong Caribbean	AWM Jansen de Jong
SUB CONTRACTORS	Alho Aruba N.V. Croon Caribe N.V. Bopel Technical Services N.V. Marca Caminda Aruba N.V. Joint Venture ASAP N.V. & ADB LED Solutions	ALHO ARUBA croon caribe ASAP ADB

Carapuerto Internacional Reina Beatrix

Schiphol

**\$11,000,000 project on tap to enhance Aruba's Airport**



## Final Week at Westin Aruba Art Gallery:

# Don't miss the Art Exhibition "I See Beauty in Everything!"

**PALM BEACH** - The 8 photographers' exhibition "I see Beauty in Everything!" has been visited by many at Westin Aruba Art Gallery (WAAG) since the opening reception on January 12, and the show will be wrapping up on March 7, 2013. If you have not visited the exhibition yet, you have one more week to do so, and you don't want to miss out! Some of the fantastic artworks (photography on different mediums) have been sold already and have gone home with their new owners, but they are replaced by new pieces, so even if you already visited once, you may find oth-



er new interesting artworks. Participating photographers/artists are: Annemiek van Vliet, Armando Goedgedrag, Deisy Gutierrez, Eduardo Valbuena, Maria Teresa Martinez, Mayo Stoppels, Paul van Driel, and Rosalie Klein. Some well known, some still unknown but with a bright future, the 8 photogra-

phers/artists are presenting 'what & how they see beauty' in their own perspectives.

You can visit WAAG at 7days-a-week; it's located on the Lobby Level of The Westin Aruba Resort. A representative of WAAG will be there on Tuesday (3pm - 6pm) & Saturday



(11am - 2pm) to answer any questions or assist you for purchasing your new fantastic artworks!

You may contact Michi or Eduardo at 588-2267 or 742-1987 (WAAG) for more information. □

## Beauty On The Beach

### Daniela Runcio

She came all the way from Milan, Italy to enjoy her honeymoon in Aruba.

She is staying at the Radisson Aruba Beach Resort, her favorite beaches in Aruba are the Arashi Beach and the Baby Beach



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# \$11,000,000 project on tap to enhance Aruba's Airport

**ORANJESTAD** – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is ready to start with the US \$11,000,000 project: The General Aviation Apron Extension. In the presence of members of the Parliament Chris Dammers and Clarisca Velasquez and other guests, Mr. Peter Steinmetz, CEO of AAA together with the Minister of Tourism & Transportation Mr. Otmar Oduber and AAA's Director Operations Mr. Jurgen Benschop unveiled the

project sign and gave start to the General Aviation Apron extension project. The General Aviation Apron extension project entails the platform area increase of 21000m<sup>2</sup> which represents 78% more parking space. This translates in approximately 25 more parking positions for private airplanes. New led flood lights and led taxi way lights will be placed. This will represent significant energy savings for the airport.



welcome more passengers to the island through this facility. Something that both we as airport and I'm very sure that our clients are looking forward to!", said AAA CEO Mr. Peter Steinmetz. The pictures illustrate the project designs and also the unveiling moment when Mr. Peter Steinmetz together with Mr. Otmar Oduber and Mr. Jurgen Benschop unveiled the sign indicating the start of this project. □



The construction of a new parallel taxi way that complies with ICAO clearing standards is also included in the project, along with the construction of 2 new runway exits to the general aviation apron and a Heli-pad for the use of helicopters. "The rising demand for more General Aviation space will now be addressed and we're very excited to provide extra service to our clients. In 10 months we will be able to



# BONUS



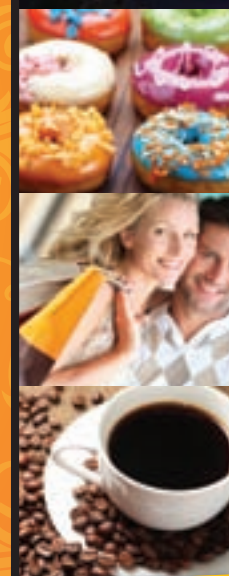
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**NOW! lends a hand to the community:**

## “The Art Project” auction’s proceeds delivered to FPNC

**ORANJESTAD** - On Tuesday February 26th, Rosetna Mariana, on behalf of NOW!, delivered a check worth AWG 17,250 to Indra Stamper and Francis Saladin Jr. of Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC). This was the total proceeds from the auction of about 30 paintings created by clients and relations of the advertising agency NOW! Indra Stamper was very pleased with the proceeds. “This gives us the possibility of aiding about 250 families with support and food for one month,” she explains enthusiastically. Every month FPNC spends about AWG 18,000 to support all registered families with special food packages. “This is about helping families, who for a short of long term period, are in dire financial situations. This isn’t meant to be a little extra for people who don’t make a lot of money,” Indra Stamper continues. For more information about FPNC and their activities: [www.fpnc.com](http://www.fpnc.com). □



## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

**Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: “from the pier to your plate!”**



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words “fresh seafood” really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called “Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



### Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.





Tiger Woods walks along the fairway of the 16th hole during the pro-am at the Honda Classic golf tournament, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

## McIlroy, Woods start their road to the Masters

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP)** — This is not the rivalry anyone had in mind when Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy began the year.

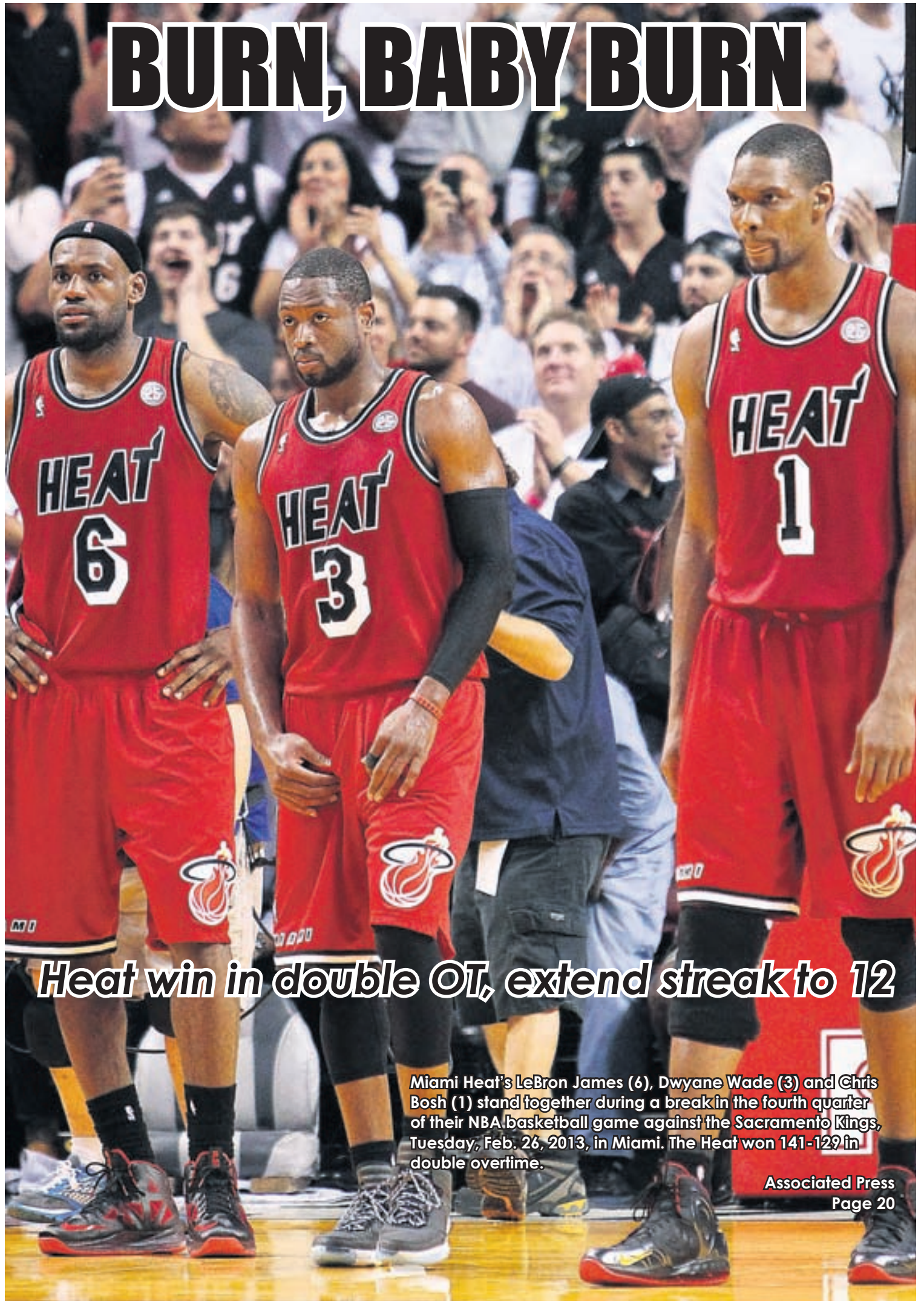
They made their debut in Abu Dhabi last month and both missed the cut. The next time they played in the same tournament was last week in the Match Play Championship, and both were eliminated in the first round.

The difference is that Woods played at Torrey Pines the week after missing the cut. He left little reason for anyone to doubt his game when he built a lead that reached eight shots until the day dragged on and he won by four for his 75th career win on the PGA Tour.

McIlroy knew starting the year there would attention on his change from Titleist to Nike, and it only intensified with two bad results.

Continued on Page 18

# BURN, BABY BURN



## Heat win in double OT, extend streak to 12

Miami Heat's LeBron James (6), Dwyane Wade (3) and Chris Bosh (1) stand together during a break in the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, in Miami. The Heat won 141-129 in double overtime.

Associated Press  
Page 20



## Mcllroy, Woods

Continued from Page 17

But the start of the Florida swing is no time to panic, and Mcllroy sure didn't sound worried at the Honda Classic.

"It's fine," he said. "I knew coming into (the year) it was going to be a bit of a process and I knew there was going to be comments if it didn't happen for me right away," Mcllroy said. "I'm only two tournaments into the season. I've still 20 to go. So it's not like I'm in any rush. It's not like I'm pushing for answers. Everything is there. It's just a matter of putting it all together."

Mcllroy put it together much sooner a year ago. He was runner-up in Abu Dhabi, tied for fifth in Dubai, lost in the final of the Match Play Championship and then won the Honda Classic, making one vital par save after another to hold off a late rally by Woods. Mcllroy went to No. 1 by winning at PGA National, and he has been atop the world ranking since winning the PGA Championship.

How much longer he stays there depends on his game — and that of Woods, who is No. 2 and making up ground.

They are the featured players as the Florida swing gets under way Thursday in the Honda Classic, a tournament that has been re-

juvenated in recent years with a couple of significant moves. One was the site of the tournament to PGA National, which has hosted a PGA Championship and a Ryder Cup and makes for good television with so much water in play over the closing holes.

The other was a vast improvement in the neighborhood. Woods moved to nearby Jupiter Island, while Mcllroy, Lee Westwood and former Masters champion Charl Schwartzel are located at Old Palm just down the road. Keegan Bradley, Rickie Fowler, Dustin Johnson and others also have moved to south Florida.

It turned out to be the right recipe to get a good field, though Woods and Mcllroy are at the top of the list, especially with the Masters getting closer.

Woods brings a little perspective to whether there is reason to doubt Mcllroy.

The Match Play Championship is the most unpredictable event in golf, and Woods is a great example of that. He is the only three-time winner, yet he has yet to make it out of the second round since his last win. Woods played bogey-free on a course that still had traces of snow and was beaten by Charles Howell III, who played even better.

"Generally if you're missing a cut, you're probably not playing that well," Woods said Wednesday



**Northern Ireland's Rory Mcllroy reacts after hitting out of the bunker onto the 18th green and just missing the pin in the first round against Shane Lowry, of Ireland, during the Match Play Championship golf tournament, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013, in Marana, Ariz.**

after his pro-am round. "I actually played well, and only played one day. So I missed a few putts out there, but other than that, I really played well. And unfortunately, I ran into a guy who also played well — better than I did."

Mcllroy didn't look sharp at all when he was eliminated by Shane Lowry. His weakness was iron play, leaving several shots out to the right.

So was it his swing or his new equipment? The

23-year-old from Northern Ireland suggested a little of both.

"I guess it's still an adjustment period," he said. "It's going to be a gradual thing."

There's obviously a bit of an overlap there and you have to just try and get your way into it the best you can. But as I've said the last few weeks, it's more about how I'm swinging the club. That's the real concern — not concern for me, but I would like to get

**Associated Press**

back to where I was the middle of last year. That's the real thing I'm working on." Even so, the switch to new equipment has been a factor.

Mcllroy took a big break at the end of the 2011 season, nearly two months before starting a new year. But with an equipment change, he only took a few weeks off before getting to the practice range with his new clubs. Somewhere along the way, he says some bad habits got into his swing.

He said the golf ball was an easier adjustment than he expected. The driver was more difficult, though Mcllroy is confident he has that dialed in. Now it's a matter of taking it to the golf course. He is playing three times before he gets to the Masters — PGA National and Doral in back-to-back weeks, and then a two-week break before he plays the Houston Open.

Whether the Florida swing starts with the Honda Classic or Doral, as it once did, the feel of that warm, tropical breeze, palm trees, white bunkers and blue water hazards signal the first step toward the first major of the year.

Only 34 players in the 144-man field are currently in the Masters.

The Honda Classic has five of the top 10 players in the world, including Westwood, Louis Oosthuizen and Justin Rose. □



**SINGAPORE (AP)** — Ai Miyazato withdrew from the HSBC Women's Champions in Singapore on Wednesday as a precaution after she was hurt in a weekend auto accident.

Miyazato, the 2010 champion, withdrew after hitting balls for about 15 minutes, skipping the pro-am and telling organizers she was still

**Ai Miyazato, of Japan, lines up for a putt during the final round of the LPGA Thailand golf tournament in Pattaya, southern Thailand, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013.**

**Associated Press**

## Auto accident makes Miyazato pull out of HSBC

battling whiplash.

"I still have some stiffness in my neck, shoulder, and back area but it is also a precautionary measure so as not to risk further injury this early in the season," the former No. 1-ranked Miyazato said in a statement. "I now plan to return to Japan to see my trainer for a few days."

"I am very disappointed to withdraw from the HSBC Women's Champions as I really love this tournament."

The U.S. LPGA Tour said Paula Creamer, Suzann Pettersen and Miyazato were involved in a five-vehicle crash as they

were traveling to an airport in Thailand on Sunday to catch flights for Singapore.

Creamer told a pre-tournament news conference in Singapore she had "pretty bad whiplash from hitting the headrest but I took it easy and I hope that I can tee it up" when the event starts on Thursday.

"I've felt better, that's for sure," Creamer said. "We will see what happens. It's pretty amazing how we walked away, but things happen."

Pettersen was unhurt.

Se Ri Pak also withdrew due to an illness. □



## Lowe's extends with Jimmie Johnson through 2015

**The Associated Press**  
**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)** - Jimmie Johnson's second Daytona 500 victory came with another big prize - a two-year contract extension from primary sponsor Lowe's.

Lowe's Companies Inc. said Wednesday it has re-upped with Hendrick Motorsports through the 2015 NASCAR season, making the announcement to 1,700 store managers at its national sales meeting. The extension is concurrent with Johnson's contract, which also runs through 2015 with Hendrick. Lowe's and Hendrick first teamed in 2001 when Johnson was hired to drive for the new No. 48 team. Now in its 12th season, it's the most successful team over the last decade in NASCAR.

Johnson has won a series-best 61 races since his 2002 rookie year, has five Sprint Cup titles and has never finished lower than sixth in the standings.

"It has been a great ride with Jimmie since he started in the Cup Series 12 years ago," said Tom Lamb, Lowe's chief marketing officer.

"We are proud to sponsor one of the most elite teams and drivers in racing and have a five-time champion carry the Lowe's brand each week."

Johnson's second Daytona 500 win on Sunday came in his 400th career start.

He joined Hendrick teammate Jeff Gordon as just the second driver to have the same primary sponsor for each of their first 400 Cup starts.

"Lowe's believed in me before I had any success," said Johnson.

"They are all I've ever known in my Sprint Cup career, and their support of me and the No. 48 team is second to none in the sport.

We've been together for this crazy ride, and I'm so happy we're continuing it together. They truly are family, and I'm proud to represent them."

Johnson and crew chief Chad Knaus have been together with Lowe's since the No. 48 team was formed, and have won at least one Sprint Cup race in 12 consecutive seasons. The five championships trail only first-ballot Hall of Fame drivers Dale Earnhardt and Richard Petty, who each won seven.

"We caught lightning in a bottle with this combination," said team owner Rick Hendrick.

"Jimmie and Chad have been successful because they always have a plan and do a great job executing. Lowe's is the same way as a sponsor.

The partnership has been incredible, and we're looking forward to working together for many more years." □



Jimmie Johnson poses for photos after winning the Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race, Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

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## NBA Capsules

# Heat win 12th straight, outlast Kings in 2OT

**The Associated Press**

**MIAMI (AP)** — LeBron James had 40 points and 16 assists, Dwyane Wade scored 39 and the Miami Heat pushed their winning streak to 12 games by outlasting the Sacramento Kings 141-129 in double overtime on Tuesday night. Ray Allen added 21, Chris Bosh finished with 15 and Chris Andersen had 10 for the Heat, who remained six games clear of second-place Indiana in the Eastern Conference standings. Miami's 12-game winning streak is the longest in the NBA and matches the second-longest in franchise history.

Marcus Thornton scored 36 points for Sacramento, the most by any reserve in the NBA this season. DeMarcus Cousins finished with 24 points and 15 rebounds, Tyreke Evans added 26 points, John Salmons 15 and Isaiah Thomas 14 for the Kings.

**PACERS 108, WARRIORS 97**  
INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — David West had 28 points and seven rebounds, and the Indiana Pacers overcame the ejection of Roy Hibbert following a fourth-quarter scuffle to beat Golden State.



**Miami Heat's LeBron James, center, drives between Sacramento Kings' Isaiah Thomas, left, and Marcus Thornton during overtime of their NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, in Miami. The Heat won 141-129 in double overtime.**

**Associated Press**

West also was called for a technical foul, along with the Warriors' David Lee, Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson, for the altercation that began with 6:10 remaining in the game. It began when Lee and Hibbert exchanged shoves under the basket after a missed shot. Curry tried to push Hibbert away and was shoved to the court as the fight went from the key to the baseline.

George Hill had 23 points and seven assists, and Paul George had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers (36-21), who have won five straight. Curry scored a season-high 38 points and Thompson had 13 for the Warriors (33-24), who had a three-game winning streak snapped.

**NETS 101, HORNETS 97**  
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Deron Williams scored 33 points, Brook Lopez added

20 while playing against his twin brother, Robin, and the Brooklyn Nets snapped a two-game skid.

Williams did not score for much of the second half, but drained a timely 3-pointer with 1:24 left, then added a fadeaway jumper, followed by six free throws in the final 18.7 seconds to seal it. Keith Bogans added 12 points for Brooklyn, hitting all four of his shots, including three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, when New Orleans nearly erased a deficit that had been as large as 22 points in the second quarter. Greivis Vasquez scored 20 and Robin Lopez 14 for New Orleans, which has lost four of five.

**CAVALIERS 101, BULLS 98**  
CHICAGO (AP) — Dion Waiters scored 25 points to help make up for the absence of Kyrie Irving, and the Cleveland Cavaliers snapped an 11-game losing streak against the Chicago Bulls with a 101-98 victory on Tuesday night. While Irving rested a sore right knee in street clothes on the sideline, Waiters converted a fadeaway jumper and a layup before Tyler Zeller drove along the baseline for a layup that

helped Cleveland open an 87-78 lead with 7:33 left in the game.

The Bulls were down two when they got the ball back with 37 seconds left, but Luol Deng missed a long jumper.

Shaun Livingston, starting in place of Irving, finished with 15 points as improving Cleveland held on for its third win in the last four games, bouncing back from a difficult 109-105 loss at Miami on Sunday.

**BUCKS 95, MAVERICKS 90**  
DALLAS (AP) — Monta Ellis scored 22 points, and Milwaukee spoiled Dirk Nowitzki's first game in nearly 10 years with at least 20 points and 20 rebounds.

Ellis twice put the Bucks ahead in the final 2 minutes, the last time on a jumper for a 92-90 lead with 1:03 remaining.

Nowitzki had 21 points and 20 rebounds for the Mavericks, who had two chances after Ellis' go-ahead basket. Vince Carter missed a 3-pointer and Darren Collison's wild shot on a drive wasn't close.

Nowitzki's last 20-20 game was April 3, 2003, against the Los Angeles Lakers, when he had 25 points and 22 boards. □

## Del Potro, Berdych reach quarterfinals in Dubai

**MICHAEL CASEY**  
**AP Sports Writer**

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Defending champion Roger Federer and top-seeded Novak Djokovic are on course to face each in the Dubai Championships final after each moved into the quarterfinals Wednesday with straight set victories. The world's two best players were joined by Juan Martin del Potro and Tomas Berdych who also won in straight sets. Berdych saved 12 of 14 break points to beat Tobias Kamke of

Germany 7-5, 6-1, and Del Potro defeated Somdev Devvarman of India 6-4, 6-4 before hitting a few balls with Argentina football great Diego Maradona. Djokovic beat Spaniard Roberto Bautista-Agut of Spain 6-1, 7-6 (4). The top-ranked Djokovic broke Bautista-Agut three times to win the first set in 23 minutes and took a 3-0 lead in the second. But at 5-3 up and serving for the match, Bautista-Agut managed to break Djokovic and seemed to suddenly come alive — going on to

save four match points to level the set at 5-5.

Djokovic produced a volleyed winner to go up 6-5 up, only for the 55th-ranked Spaniard to have a good service game capped by a return from the Serb into the net to force the tiebreaker. However, Djokovic soon took control, accelerating into a 5-2 lead and winning the match when Bautista-Agut double faulted.

"I played really, really well and a high level throughout most of the match and then I had another poor game like yesterday to-



**In this Feb. 17, 2013, file photo, Argentina's Juan Martin del Potro returns a shot against Julien Benneteau of France in the final of the ABN AMRO world tennis tournament at Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands.**

**Associated Press**

ward the end when I needed to close it out and a few match points," Djokovic said. "He fought his way through and I have to give

them credit for that. He's a great competitor. I never played against him, so I didn't know really what to expect." □



## NHL Capsules

# Kopecky gets hat trick as Panthers beat Pens 6-4

The Associated Press

**SUNRISE, Florida (AP)** — Tomas Kopecky recorded his first career hat trick and Tomas Fleischmann had the go-ahead score for his 100th career goal, lifting the Florida Panthers to a 6-4 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Tuesday night. Brian Campbell and Marcel Goc also scored, and Fleischmann added two assists for the Panthers. Scott Clemmensen stopped all 15 shots he faced in the third after replacing Jose Theodore during the second intermission. Theodore stopped 15 of 19 shots through the first and second periods.

Chris Kunitz, Dustin Jeffrey, Paul Martin and James Neal scored for the Penguins. Kopecky, who has six goals in his last six games, scored his third of the game on an empty-netter from his own blue line that made the score 6-4 with one minute left.

**COYOTES 4, CANUCKS 2**  
VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Kyle Chipchura scored twice and Mike Smith made 29 saves to lead Phoenix to a victory over Vancouver.

Antoine Vermette and Mikkel Boedker each added a goal and an assist for Phoenix, which was coming off back-to-back losses to Edmonton and Calgary over the weekend.

Jason Garrison and Henrik Sedin scored, and Cory Schneider made 18 saves for Vancouver.

Boedker scored in the second and then assisted on Vermette's third-period goal that proved the winner, helping the Coyotes win on the road in regulation for the first time this season.

Chipchura scored in the first and then put it away on an empty-netter with 23 seconds left.

**BRUINS 4, ISLANDERS 1**  
UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Brad Marchand scored the go-ahead goal in the second period and Boston beat New York for the 16th time in the last 20 meetings. Adam McQuaid, David



Calgary Flames' Jay Bouwmeester (4) sends Minnesota Wild's Mikko Koivu, of Finland, to the ice as Flames goalie Joey MacDonald, left, stops a shot in the first period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press

Krejci and Greg Campbell also scored for the Bruins (12-2-2), who won their fourth straight to bolster their best start since the 1976-77 season. All four victories have come on the road, where the Bruins are 8-1-1.

Casey Cizikas scored for the Islanders, who are a league-worst 2-8 at home. Boston is 16-3-1 in its last 20 games against the Islanders, who remain in the basement of the Atlantic Division.

**SABRES 2, LIGHTNING 1**  
TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Tyler Myers scored a go-ahead goal early in third period, helping Ron Rolston win for the first time as Buffalo's interim coach with a victory over Tampa Bay.

Myers made it 2-1 from the top of the left circle 52 seconds into the third after a Tampa Bay turnover. Rolston replaced long-time Buffalo coach Lindy Ruff on Feb. 20.

Ryan Miller made 30 saves and improved to 19-7-0 against the Lightning. The Sabres also got a goal from Cody Hodgson, while Thomas Vanek had two assists.

Steven Stamkos extended his goals streak to six games with his 14th for Tampa Bay. Miller stopped Stamkos on a point-blank chance in the third.

**CAPITALS 3, HURRICANES 0**  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Nick-

las Backstrom scored in the first period and assisted on John Erskine's goal in the second, leading Washington over Carolina.

John Carlson scored in the third and Braden Holtby, who signed a two-year contract extension Monday, made 33 saves to earn his fifth career shut-out for the Capitals. After a miserable start to the season, Washington has back-to-back wins by more than one goal for the first time this season. The victory moved the Capitals within four points of the Hurricanes, who led the NHL's weakling division at the start of the day's play. Cam Ward kept it from turning into an ugly rout by making 37 saves for the Hurricanes.

## STARS 5, BLUE JACKETS 4, OT

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — Loui Eriksson fought off two defenders to get his stick on a rebound and jammed it in 3:03 into overtime to give Dallas a victory over Columbus.

Cody Eakin had given the Stars a 4-3 lead with 6:24 left in regulation, but R.J. Umberger scored from the right hash with just 1:34 remaining to force overtime. Eakin, Antoine Roussel and Derek Roy each had a goal and an assist. Brenden Morrow scored, and Stephane Robidas and Brenden Dillon each had

two assists for the Stars, who had lost three of four.

Cam Atkinson, Nikita Nikitin and Derek Dorsett scored the other goals for Columbus, which lost its third in a row and sixth in seven games.

## JETS 4, RANGERS 3

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Olli Jokinen scored twice and Evander Kane had a goal

and assist in the second period for surging Winnipeg, which closed a 4-1 road trip with a win over New York.

After a scoreless first period, Jokinen broke the deadlock 5:55 into the second off an assist from Kane, who then gave Winnipeg a 2-0 lead 1:07 later with his eighth goal of the season. □

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**Sylvester Stallone** **Sung Kang**

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Mon - Thurs 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20  
Fri 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30  
Sat 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20 / 11:30  
Sun & Hol 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

**Bruce Willis** **Jai Courtney**

**A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD** **R**

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35  
Fri 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:50  
Sat 1:50 / 3:00 / 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:50  
Sun & Hol 1:50 / 3:00 / 4:00 / 5:10 / 6:10 / 7:20 / 8:25 / 9:35

**Óscar Barberán** **Fiona Glascock**

**TAD** **G**

THE LOST EXPLORER

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Mon - Thurs 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35  
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**Jason Bateman** **Melissa McCarthy**

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Mon - Thurs 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20  
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**THE LAST STAND** **R**

Mon - Thurs 9:25  
Fri 9:25 / 11:55  
Sat 9:25 / 11:55  
Sun & Hol 9:25

**Jessica Chastain** **Nikolaj Coster-Waldau**

**MAMA** **PG-13**

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Fri 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 11:55  
Sat 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30 / 11:55  
Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30

**Billy Cristal** **Bette Midler**

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE** **PG**

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Fri 4:25 / 6:55  
Sat, Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:55

**STARTING THURSDAY MARCH 7**

**James Franco** **Mila Kunis**

**QZ** **PG**

**GRAT POWERELL**



## Personal Health:

# Experts voice caution over too many pills in pregnancy

JANE E. BRODY

© 2013 New York Times

The thalidomide disaster of the early 1960s left thousands of babies with deformed limbs because their mothers innocently took a sleeping pill thought to be safe during pregnancy. In its well-publicized wake, countless pregnant women avoided all medications, fearing that any drug they took could jeopardize their babies' development.

I was terrified in December 1968 when, during the first weeks of my pregnancy, I developed double pneumonia and was treated with antibiotics and codeine. Before swallowing a single dose, I called my obstetrician, who told me to take what was prescribed, "reassuring" me that if I died of pneumonia I wouldn't have a baby at all.

In the decades that followed, pregnancy-related hazards were linked to many medicinal substances: prescription and over-the-counter drugs and herbal remedies.

Now, however, the latest findings about drug use during pregnancy have ignited new concerns among experts.

During the past 30 years, use of prescription drugs

About 90 percent of pregnant women take at least one medication, and 70 percent take at least one prescription drug, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

an in 10 takes an herbal remedy during the first trimester.

A growing number of pregnant women, naively assuming safety, self-medicate with over-the-counter drugs that once were sold only by prescription. The Food and Drug Administration estimates that 10 percent or more of birth defects result from medications taken during pregnancy.

"We seem to have forgotten as a society that drugs pose risks," Dr. Allen A. Mitchell, professor of epidemiology and pediatrics at Boston University Schools of Public Health and Medicine, said in an interview. "Many over-the-counter drugs were grandfathered in with no studies of their possible effects during pregnancy."

Medical progress has contributed to the trend, Mitchell said. Various conditions, like depression, are now recognized as diseases that warrant treatment; drugs have been developed to treat conditions for

which no treatment was previously available, and some conditions, like Type 2 diabetes and hypertension, have become more prevalent.

Now a new concern has surfaced: Bypassing their doctors, more and more women are using the Internet to determine whether the medicine they are taking or are about to take is safe for a fetus.

A study, published online last month in *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*, of so-called "safe lists for medications in pregnancy" found at 25 websites had glaring inconsistencies and sometimes false reassurances or alarms based on "inadequate evidence."

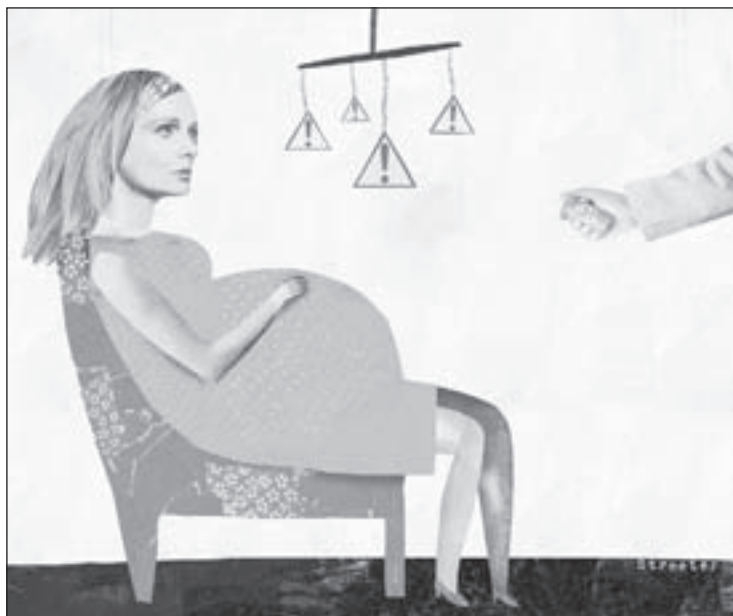
The report was prepared by Cheryl S. Broussard of the CDC with co-authors from Emory, Georgia State University, the University of British Columbia and the FDA. "Among medications approved for use in the USA from 2000 to 2010, over 79 percent had no published human data on which to assess teratogenic risk (potential to cause birth defects), and 98 percent had insufficient published data to characterize such risk," the authors wrote.

But that did not stop the 25 websites from characterizing 245 medications as "safe" for use by pregnant women, which "might encourage use of medications during pregnancy even when they are not necessary," the authors suggested.

Furthermore, the information was sometimes contradictory.

"Twenty-two of the products listed as safe by one or more sites were stated not to be safe by one or more of the other sites," the study found.

The question of timing was often ignored. A drug that could interfere with fetal organ development might be safe to take later in pregnancy. Or one (for example, ibuprofen) that is safe early in pregnancy could become a hazard later if it raises risks like excessive bleeding. □



**Some doctors are concerned as studies find more women take medications during their pregnancies, including in the first trimester, when fetal organs are forming.**

(Katherine Streefer/The New York Times)

during the first trimester of pregnancy, when fetal organs are forming, has grown by more than 60 percent.

tion. Since the late 1970s, the proportion of pregnant women taking four or more medications has more than doubled. Nearly one wom-

## Breast cancer incidence in younger women on the rise

DENISE GRADY

© 2013 New York Times

The incidence of advanced breast cancer among younger women, ages 25-39, may have increased slightly over the last three decades, according to a study released Tuesday.

But more research is needed to verify the finding, which was based on an analysis of statistics, the study's authors said. They do not know what may have caused the apparent increase.

Some outside experts questioned whether the increase was real, and expressed concerns that the report would frighten women needlessly.

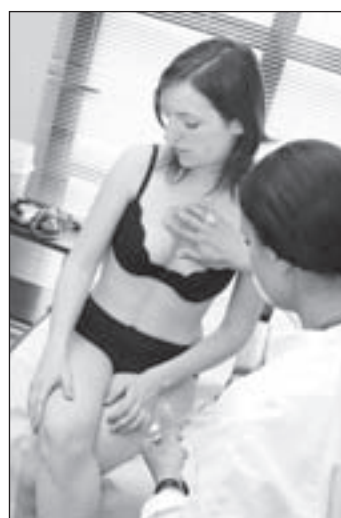
The study, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that advanced cases climbed to 2.9 per 100,000 younger women in 2009, from 1.53 per 100,000 wom-

en in 1976 – an increase of 1.37 cases per 100,000 women in 34 years. The totals were about 250 such cases per year in the mid-1970s, and more than 800 per year in 2009.

Though small, the increase was statistically significant, and the researchers said it was worrisome because it involved cancer that had already spread to organs like the liver or lungs by the time it was diagnosed, which greatly diminishes the odds of survival.

For now, the only advice the researchers can offer to young women is to see a doctor quickly if they notice lumps, pain or other changes in the breast, and not to assume that they cannot have breast cancer because they are young and healthy, or have no family history of the disease.

"Breast cancer can and does occur in younger



**A young patient receives a breast cancer test during a doctor's visit.**

(Handout Photo)

women," said Dr. Rebecca H. Johnson, the first author of the study and medical director of the adolescent and young adult oncology program at Seattle Children's Hospital.

But Johnson noted that there is no evidence that screening helps younger

women who have an average risk for the disease and no symptoms. "We're certainly not advocating that young women get mammography at an earlier age than is generally specified," she said.

Expert groups differ about when screening should begin; some say at age 40, others 50.

Breast cancer is not common in younger women; only 1.8 percent of all cases are diagnosed in women from 20-34, and 10 percent in women from 35-44. However, when it does occur, the disease tends to be more deadly in younger women than in older ones. Researchers are not sure why.

The researchers analyzed data from SEER, a program run by the National Cancer Institute to collect cancer statistics on 28 percent of the population of the United States. □



# Report: Stuxnet cyberweapon older than believed

RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — The sophisticated cyberweapon which targeted an Iranian nuclear plant is older than previously believed, an anti-virus company said Tuesday, peeling back another layer of mystery on a series of attacks attributed by many to U.S. and Israeli intelligence.

The Stuxnet worm, aimed at the centrifuges in Iran's Natanz plant, transformed the cybersecurity field because it was the first known computer attack specifically designed to cause physical damage. The precise origins of the worm remain unclear, but until now the earliest samples of Stuxnet had been dated to 2009, and The New York Times — in the fullest account of the attack published so far — traced the origins of the top-secret program back to 2006. In a new report issued late Tuesday, Symantec Corp.

pushed that timeline further back, saying it had found a primitive version of Stuxnet circulating online in 2007 and that elements of the program had been in place as far back as 2005. Independent security experts who examined the report said it showed that the worm's creators were well ahead of their time. "To me, it's amazing," said Mikko Hypponen, whose Finland-based F-Secure has studied Stuxnet. "We had no idea the U.S.-Israel cyberoperations were so advanced already almost a decade ago."

Hypponen is one of a host of experts who've concluded that Stuxnet was an attempt to sabotage the uranium enrichment centrifuges at Iran's Natanz nuclear plant, a key element in the Islamic republic's disputed atomic energy program. Because the United States and Israel are two of Iran's biggest foes, the shadow of suspicion immediately



In this Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007 file photo, an Iranian technician works at the Uranium Conversion Facility just outside the city of Isfahan 255 miles (410 kilometers) south of the capital Tehran, Iran. Associated Press

## Apple to hand out iTunes credits in settlement

**SAN JOSE, California (AP)**

— Apple has agreed to give more than \$100 million in iTunes store credits to settle a lawsuit alleging that the iPhone and iPad maker improperly charged kids for playing games on their mobile devices.

The 2-year-old case centers on allegations that Apple didn't create adequate parental controls to prevent children from buying extra features while playing free games on iPhones and iPads in 2010 and 2011. Parents who filed the lawsuit in 2011 said they didn't realize their children were racking up the charges until they received bills or other notifications after the purchases were made. The games that had been downloaded were designed for kids as young as 4 years old, according to the lawsuit.

Apple introduced more stringent controls governing in-game purchases as part of a March 2011 up-

date to the software that runs its mobile devices.

Under an agreement filed in federal court last week, Apple has agreed to award an iTunes credit of \$5 to each of the estimated 23 million account holders who may have been affected. Parents could receive more if they can show their bills exceeded \$5. If the charges exceeded \$30, cash refunds will be offered.

The lawyers who sued Apple said it's still too early to determine how many people ultimately will qualify for the iTunes credits and cash refunds. As part of the settlement, the attorneys are seeking \$1.3 million in fees, which would be paid by Apple.

Apple, which is based in Cupertino, California, declined to comment Tuesday.

A hearing on the proposed settlement is scheduled Friday in San Jose, California. □

settled on their tech-savvy intelligence services.

That theory got a boost when the Times reported that President George W. Bush had ordered the deployment of Stuxnet against Iran, laying out in unprecedented detail how the worm had been crafted so as to surreptitiously send Natanz's centrifuge machines spinning out of control.

U.S. and Israeli officials have long declined to comment publicly on Stuxnet or their alleged involvement in creating and deploying the computer worm.

Symantec's report suggests that an intermediate ver-

sion of the worm — Stuxnet 0.5 — was completed in November 2007. That worm lacked some of the sophistication of its descendant, Symantec said, and was designed to interfere with the centrifuges by opening and closing the valves which control the flow of uranium gas, causing a potentially damaging buildup in pressure.

That approach was dropped in later improved versions of the Stuxnet code.

Symantec said the servers used to control the primitive worm were set up in November 2005, suggesting that Stuxnet's trailblaz-

ing authors were plotting their attack at a time when many parts of the Internet now taken for granted were not yet in place. Twitter did not exist, Facebook was still largely limited to U.S. college campuses, and YouTube was in its infancy.

Alan Woodward, a professor of computer science at the University of Surrey, said that had troubling implications.

"Clearly these were very forward-thinking, clever people that were doing this," he said. "There's no reason to think that they're less forward-thinking now. What are they up to?" □

## China closes porn, content sharing websites

**BEIJING (AP)** — China says it has closed

scores of websites for offering pornography, video sharing and online gaming.

The official Xinhua News Agency on Wednesday said a new crackdown led to the shuttering of 225 websites and more than 30,000 blogs and Twitter-like microblog accounts found to be offering obscene or improper content. They included sites offering photo and video sharing as well as online gaming, Xinhua said, citing a

statement from the State Internet Information Office.

It said the office was working with police and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology to investigate those running the sites and how they got online.

China's Communist authorities heavily police the Internet for content deemed obscene or politically subversive. Twitter, Facebook, and other Western social media sites are blocked. □





# Stocks surge on housing; Dow nears record

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Dow came within 100 points of its all-time high Wednesday after rising sharply for a second straight day.

The market surged following more evidence that the Fed will keep interest rates low, housing will keep recovering and shoppers aren't pulling back on spending, even with a payroll tax hike.

The gains were broad: Twenty-nine of 30 stocks in the Dow Jones industrial average rose. All 10 industries in the Standard and Poor's 500 index climbed. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 175.24 points, or 1.2 percent, to 14,075.37. The index is now less than 100 points away from its record close of 14,164 reached in October

2007. The Dow has surged 290 points in the past two days, erasing its drop of 216 points Monday when inconclusive results from an

election in Italy renewed worries that Europe's fiscal crisis could flare up again. "The market psychology has clearly shifted. It's no

longer sell the rally, it's buy the dips," said Dan Veru, chief investment officer of Palisade Capital Management. "The economic data continues to be strong."

Stocks have surged since the start of the year. The Dow is up 7.4 percent. Earnings for S&P 500 companies will climb 7.8 percent in the fourth quarter, the third straight quarter of growth, according to data from S&P Capital IQ.

The Standard and Poor's 500 index gained 19.05 points, or 1.3 percent, to 1,515.99. The Nasdaq composite rose 32.61 points, or 1.3 percent, to 3,162.26. The index is 6.5 percent higher for the year, and is about 3.1 percent short of its record close of 1,565.

Investors were also encouraged Wednesday that Federal Reserve Chair-

man Ben Bernanke stood behind the central bank's low-interest-rate policies as he faced lawmakers for a second day. His comments dissipated worries about the bank's resolve to keep up the program. Those worries sprung up last week when minutes from the bank's last policy meeting revealed disagreement among Fed officials.

Also, the number of Americans who signed contracts to buy homes rose in January from December to the highest level in almost three years. The report continued a string of positive housing news. Sales of new homes jumped 16 percent last month to the highest level since July 2008, the government reported Tuesday. Home builder stocks rose for the second day in a row. PulteGroup climbed 25 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$19.30, after rising 5.7 percent the day before. The government reported Tuesday that sales of new homes jumped 16 percent last month. "Some encouraging news for the bulls has been the housing data that has come out over the past couple of days," said Todd Salamone, director of research at Schaeffer's Investment Research. The analyst said he remained "extremely bullish," on stocks in the medium and long-term, but cautioned that a pullback may lie ahead in coming days after the year's strong gains.



**ConocoPhillips Chairman and CEO Ryan Lance rings the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013. Stocks surged for a second day, putting the Dow on track for its highest close of the year. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)**

## Airbus parent EADS sees Q4 earnings halve

**FRANK JORDANS**  
**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — Airbus parent company EADS NV posted a 47 percent drop in fourth-quarter net profit Wednesday after taking costly charges at its helicopter and defense electronics divisions.

The aerospace giant recorded a €325 million (\$425 million) net profit in the October-December period, down from the previous year's €612 million. But for the full year, its net earnings were up 19 percent at €1.23 billion from €1.03 bil-

lion in 2011.

"There's still some way to go to meet our profitability targets," said chief executive Tom Enders.

Revenues rose 17 percent during the fourth quarter to €19.22 billion, with the core Airbus division posting a 21 percent increase to almost €13 billion.

Investors welcomed the figures, pushing EADS shares up 6.7 percent to €37.20 on the NYSE Euronext exchange in Paris.

EADS took a €198 million hit during the quarter at its defense electronics contrac-

tor Cassidian, in part reflecting restructuring costs. Renegotiating contracts with government customers resulted in a €100 million charge at helicopter maker Eurocopter.

But the company's core business, aircraft maker Airbus, posted a 36 percent increase in operating profit during the final three months, to €393 million from €289 million in 2011. Of that, orders for civilian aircraft brought in €309 million while military planes garnered €85 million during the quarter.

Spaceflight division Astrium reported operating profits of €121 million, an increase of 19 percent from the same period the previous year.

EADS said it expects to sell more commercial aircraft — about 700 — in 2013. Revenues will grow modestly, it said, but results will be affected by stuttering sales of the giant A380, which has suffered problems with its wings.

"We would love to sell more of the big birds," said Enders. "We need to sell more, and we will."

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# Apple CEO promises investors 'great stuff' to come

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

Associated Press

CUPERTINO, California (AP)

— Apple CEO Tim Cook sought to assure shareholders Wednesday that the company is working on some "great stuff" that may help reverse a sharp decline in its stock price.

True to Apple's secretive nature, Cook didn't provide any further product details during the company's annual shareholders meeting Wednesday. There has been speculation that Apple is working on an Internet-connected watch or TV, while one shareholder recommended that Apple develop a computerized bicycle. Cook, an avid bicyclist, chuckled at the suggestion, along with the rest of the audience.

Apple's stock fell \$5.20, or 1.2 percent, to \$443.77 in afternoon trading Wednesday. Wednesday's meeting at Apple Inc.'s Cupertino headquarters was less celebratory than the events in past years, when Apple's stock price was soaring to the delight and

enrichment of its shareholders.

Since hitting an all-time high of \$705.07 five months ago, Apple's stock has plunged by more than a third. The decline has wiped out collective shareholder wealth totaling \$240 billion — an amount that exceeds the total market value of Microsoft Corp., which reigned as the most influential company in personal computing until Apple ushered in an era of more mobile devices with the 2007 release of the iPhone and the 2010 introduction of the iPad.

Apple hasn't unveiled another trailblazing product line since the October 2011 death of its former CEO and co-founder Steve Jobs. The void has raised worries about whether the company is losing the creative edge that has set it apart from the rest of the technology pack.

The agenda for this year's meeting had been revised because of shareholder unrest. Influential investor David Einhorn, who runs the Greenlight Capital hedge

fund, won a court ruling last week that prompted Apple to withdraw a proposal that would have required Apple to gain shareholder approval be-

fore issuing preferred stock that could distribute more cash to its stockholders. Einhorn's fund owns 1.3 million Apple shares. Einhorn sued to block the proposal because he doesn't want Apple to erect a bureaucratic hurdle that could

make it more cumbersome for the company to issue preferred stock. He wants Apple to issue preferred shares called "iPrefs" that would yield an annual dividend of 4 percent. Shareholder pressure prompted Apple to start paying a dividend of \$2.65 per share on its common stock last year. That translates into \$10 billion in annual dividend payments, but Einhorn believes the

company should be dispensing even more money rather than let more cash accumulate in its bank accounts. Apple began this year with \$137 billion, up from nearly \$98 billion at the start of 2012. The amount keeps growing as Apple sells more iPads and iPhones. Cook told shareholders Wednesday that Apple's board is still exploring what to do with its cash, but he continued to play down Einhorn's lawsuit. "I strongly believe it was a silly sideshow, regardless of how the judge ruled on it," Cook said. Although Apple is selling more gadgets than ever before, the company's profits and sales aren't growing as robustly because of fiercer competition from a multitude of other smartphones and tablet computers that typically cost less. Apple's biggest headaches have been caused by Android, a mobile operating system that Internet search leader Google Inc. gives away to a long list of device makers led by Samsung Electronics. □



Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks during an event to announce new products in San Jose, Calif. Cook sought to assure shareholders Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2013, that the company is working on some "great stuff" that may help reverse a sharp decline in its stock price. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

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## Orders jump for key US factory goods

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders for U.S. factory goods that signal business investment plans jumped last month by the most in more than a year, suggesting companies are confident about their business prospects.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that orders for so-called core capital goods, which include industrial machinery, construction equipment and computers, rose 6.3 percent in January from December. A sharp fall in

demand for commercial aircraft caused overall durable goods orders to drop 5.2 percent, the first decline since August.

Orders for commercial aircraft are volatile from month to month and can cause large swings in the overall figure. Boeing reported orders for only two planes in January, down from 183 in December. Orders for defense equipment also plummeted by the most in more than 12 years. Durable goods are items expected to last at least three years.

The increase in core capi-

tal goods suggests companies are willing to expand their production capacities despite worries that automatic government spending cuts will slow the economy in the coming months. "The fact remains that capital spending appears to be holding up very well," Dan Greenhaus, chief global strategist at BTIG, a brokerage firm. "In fact, it appears to be accelerating." Still, the jump in orders wasn't broad-based and occurred mostly in machinery and manufactured metal products. Orders for computers and

communications equipment both fell and orders for autos and auto parts were unchanged. And even with the increase, orders have mostly just recovered last year's losses. Total core capital goods orders reached \$67.7 billion in January, just above December 2011's level. Several economists warned that orders were likely to fall in the coming months after

such a big gain. "We don't expect businesses suddenly to throw caution to the wind," Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients.

About \$85 billion in spending cuts are scheduled to kick in Friday and there is little sign that the White House and Congress will reach a deal to avoid them. □

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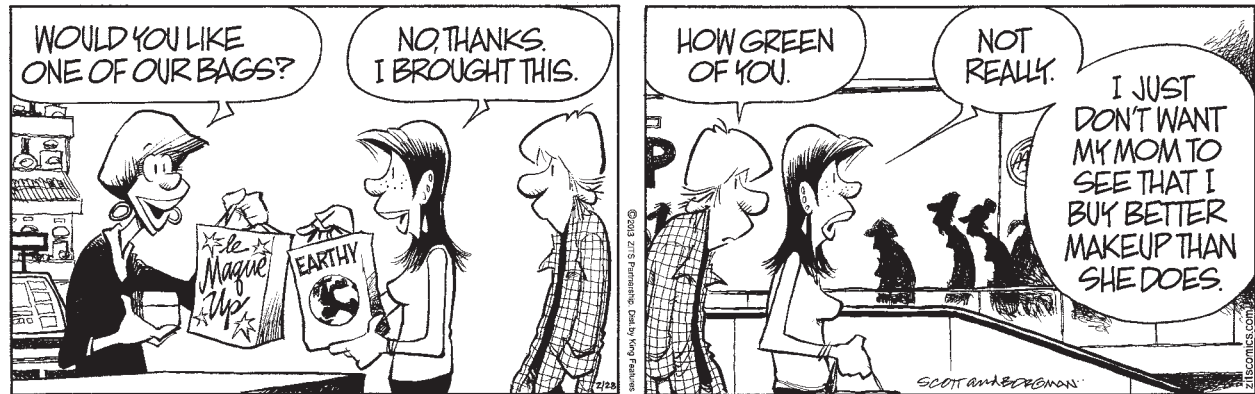
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			9	7			
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	1			7		2	
		8			9		
			5	8			

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	6	1	2	3	4	8	5	9
8	2	4	6	9	5	1	7	3
3	9	5	8	1	7	4	6	2
1	5	3	7	2	6	9	8	4
6	8	9	5	4	3	7	2	1
4	7	2	9	8	1	6	3	5
2	4	8	3	7	9	5	1	6
9	3	6	1	5	8	2	4	7
5	1	7	4	6	2	3	9	8

ACROSS

- 1 Singing voice
- 5 Goes first
- 10 Barbecue attachment
- 14 Drug addict
- 15 Bay
- 16 Dollar in Guadalajara
- 17 Camera's eye
- 18 Very small
- 20 Vegas, Nev.
- 21 Fruit spreads
- 22 Stops
- 23 Great pain
- 25 Sturdy wood
- 26 Money paid; expenditure
- 28 City in Arizona
- 31 Workers' group
- 32 Form of payment
- 34 Dessert choice
- 36 Store away
- 37 Be a freeloader
- 38 Disobey
- 39 Cheap metal
- 40 Reluctant
- 41 Strong point
- 42 Chaperone
- 44 Passes on, as information
- 45 Years lived
- 46 Molars
- 47 Little role for a big star
- 50 Grazing areas
- 51 for; choose
- 54 Modest
- 57 Summer month
- 58 Alpha's follower
- 59 Pago Pago, American
- 60 Immediately, for short
- 61 Pitcher
- 62 Oak nut
- 63 Barry or Wilder

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
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47	48	49				50				51	52	53
54					55	56			57			
58					59				60			
61					62				63			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/28/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

RILED	TRAP	SILLO
IRENE	AIDE	PLOW
PONDS	UNDO	LION
ENTICING	PLEASE	
VENT	SLENDER	
TALENT	AHEAD	
ASA	DENSE	DIANA
RAMP	RAKES	DUAL
SPEAR	METER	NIL
SEWED	NEATLY	
MUSTARD	JOAN	
ENTIRE	PERSISTS	
ADAM	ASIA	OMAHA
LURE	THEN	NAVEL
SETS	HERS	SLEEK

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2/28/13

DOWN

- 1 Steer
- 2 Bewildered
- 3 Feelings
- 4 Yrbk. section
- 5 Long prayer with responses
- 6 Foe
- 7 Pub orders
- 8 TV room, often
- 9 Pig's home
- 10 Orates
- 11 Banana casing
- 12 "Say it so!"
- 13 Gifts for kids
- 19 Hit, as a piñata
- 21 Collins or Baez
- 24 Shine
- 25 Cry from a flu shot clinic
- 26 Kick out
- 27 Loosen
- 28 Georgia; univ. in Atlanta
- 29 The Met, for one
- 30 Groovy, in another decade
- 32 Winter wrap
- 33 Left faucet handle
- 35 Watches
- 37 or less; approximately
- 38 Ignoramus
- 40 Company symbols
- 41 Charges

- 43 Shakespeare's "Julius "
- 44 Carter's successor
- 46 Caruso or Pavarotti
- 47 Rubik's invention
- 48 Once more
- 49 Spouse
- 50 Chauffeured car, for short
- 52 Blueprint
- 53 Sort; variety
- 55 Neighbor of Canada: abbr.
- 56 PC alternative
- 57 Coughing spell



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198890

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wk 6 - 1 br \$6000  
wk 7 - 1 br \$7,000  
wk 8 - 1 br \$8,000  
wk 9 - 1 br \$8,000  
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198746

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Jr Suites., 1 br, 2 br and 3 br any  
season, any location, at tremendous  
price !

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\$750,000

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the contract \$22000

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198869B

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# Black holes in galaxies rotate fast, study finds

**ALICIA CHANG**  
AP Science Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** —

There's a new spin on supermassive black holes: They're incredibly fast, astronomers say.

It's long been suspected that gigantic black holes lurking in the heart of galaxies rotate faster and grow larger as they feast on gas, dust, stars and matter. But there hasn't been a reliable measurement of the spin rate of a black hole until now.

While black holes are difficult to detect, the region around them gives off telltale X-rays. Using NASA's newly launched NuStar telescope and the European Space Agency's workhorse XMM-Newton, an international team observed high-energy X-rays released by a supermassive black hole in the middle of a nearby galaxy.

They calculated its spin at close to the speed of light — 670 million mph (1.08 billion kph).

This is the first "unambiguous measurement of the spin rate" of a supermassive black hole, University of Maryland astronomer Christopher Reynolds, who had no role in the research, wrote in an accompanying editorial. Behemoth black holes — with masses millions to billions times that of the sun — are thought to reside in every galactic center. They're extremely dense and possess such powerful gravitational tug that not even light can escape. Scientists are able to pinpoint these monstrous objects from the streams of X-rays emitted during a feeding frenzy. Knowing how fast — or slow — su-



This image released by Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory, shows a supermassive black hole in the nearby spiral galaxy NGC 1365.

Associated Press

permassive black holes swirl can help shed light on their growth.

For several days last summer, the two telescopes simultaneously tracked an immense black hole in a spiral galaxy called NGC 1365. The galaxy was chosen because it was 60 million light years away — relatively close by astronomical standards.

Results were published in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

So how fast is the black hole at the center of our Milky Way spinning?

It's tough to know because our galaxy's supermassive

black hole isn't as active as the observed one, said lead researcher Guido Risaliti of Italy's Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory.

Aside from occasional flares, hardly any radiation flows from our black hole, making it difficult to calculate its spin, Risaliti said.

Maryland's Reynolds said it's clear that some supermassive black holes rotate very rapidly and there's a need for more powerful X-ray space telescopes.

"We are learning about some of the most exotic and powerful objects in the universe," he said in an email. "This is cool science." □

## Tycoon proposes to send married couple around Mars

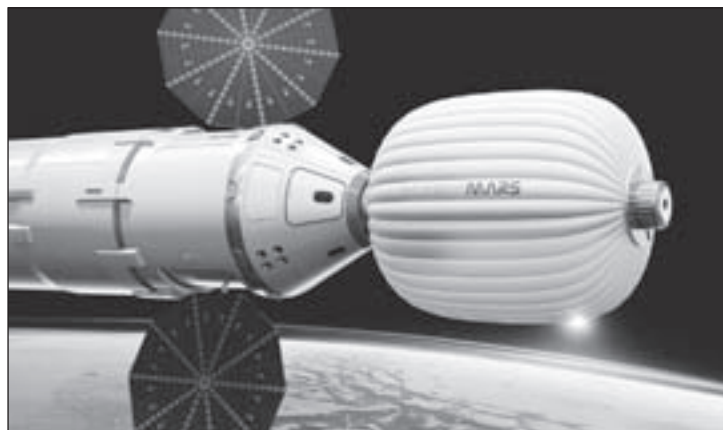
**SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

In less than five years, a married couple could be on their way toward Mars in an audacious but bare-bones private mission that would slingshot them around the Red Planet, under a plan announced Wednesday by a U.S. financial tycoon and his team.

The voyage to Mars and back would be a cosmic no-frills flight that would take the husband-and-wife astronauts as close as 100 miles (160 kilometers) to the planet, but it would also mean being cooped up for 16 months in a cramped space capsule.

The private, nonprofit project, called Inspiration Mars, will get initial money from multimillionaire investment consultant Dennis Tito, the first space tourist. The team would not say how much the overall flight would cost, but outsiders put it at



A drawing provided by Inspiration Mars shows an artist's conception of a spacecraft envisioned by the private group, which wants to send a married couple on a mission to fly by the red planet and zip back home, beginning in 2018.

Associated Press

more than \$1 billion.

NASA will not be involved. Instead, the project's backers intend to use a private rocket and space capsule and some kind of habitat that might be inflatable, employing an austere design that could take people to Mars for a fraction of what it would cost NASA to do with robots, officials said.

The crew members will have no lander to go down to the planet, and no spacesuits to go out for

any spacewalk. They will have minimal food and clothing, and their urine will be recycled into drinking water.

"This is not going to be an easy mission," chief technical officer and potential crew member Taber MacCallum said in an interview. "We called it the Lewis and Clark trip to Mars."

It also involves a huge risk, more than a government agency like NASA would normally permit, officials concede.

"It's a risk well worth taking," MacCallum said. He said it harkens back to the days when people took risks when it was meaningful, and he said it could be an inspiration, especially to students.

As for why a couple will make the flight, "this is very symbolic and we really need it to represent humanity with a man and a woman," MacCallum said. He said if it is a man and a woman on such a long, close-quarters voyage, it makes sense for them to be married so that they can give each other the emotional support that will probably need when they look out the window and see Earth get smaller and more distant: "If that's not scary, I don't know what is." The project aims to capitalize on the once-in-a-generation close approach of the two planets' orbits. The timeline for the 501-day mission is set out in a technical paper to be presented next month at a scientific meeting. In a statement, NASA spokesman David Steitz said the venture validates President Barack Obama's decision to rely more on private sector ingenuity to explore space, and is "a testament to the audacity of America's commercial aerospace industry and the adventurous spirit of America's citizen-explorers." □

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## Rock Hall of Fame to open Rolling Stones exhibit

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — The story of The Rolling Stones is so huge it takes more than two floors of The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum to tell.

The U.S.-based museum will open "Rolling Stones: 50 Years of Satisfaction," an exclusive exhibit celebrating the band, on May 24.

The exhibit will be open until March 2014 and will include personal and col-

lected items that have never been seen by the public along with film, text and interactive components and periodic lectures on the band's 50-year career.

Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and The Stones recently held a series of concerts to celebrate their 50th year together, and there have been rumors of more activity. □



In this April 22, 1965 file photo, British rock and roll group, The Rolling Stones, arrive at Montreal Airport. They are Mick Jagger, top left, Charlie Watts, top right, Keith Richards, middle left, Brian Jones, middle right, and Bill Wyman.

Associated Press

## Singer Scott Weiland responds to Stone Temple Pilots firing



This April 30, 2010 file photo shows the Stone Temple Pilots, from left, Dean Deleo, Eric Kretz, Robert Deleo, and Scott Weiland from the band Stone Temple Pilots, pose for a portrait in Santa Monica, Calif.

Associated Press

**MESFIN FEKADU**  
AP Music Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Singer Scott Weiland said he learned that he'd been fired by the Stone Temple Pilots when the band released a one-sentence statement to the media Wednesday.

"I learned of my supposed 'termination' from Stone Temple Pilots this morning by reading about it in the press," he wrote in a statement. "Not sure how I can be 'terminated' from a band that I founded, front-

ed and co-wrote many of its biggest hits, but that's something for the lawyers to figure out."

The statement by the band said: "Stone Temple Pilots have officially terminated Scott Weiland." No other information was provided. Weiland said he's focusing on his solo tour, which kicks off Friday in Flint, Michigan. Stone Temple Pilots' 1992 debut, "Core," has sold more than 8 million units in the United States. Their hits include "Vaseline,"

"Interstate Love Song" and "Plush," which won a Grammy in 1993 for best hard rock performance with vocal.

Weiland was also in the supergroup Velvet Revolver with Slash and other musicians. The 45-year-old has dealt with drug addiction, run-ins with the law and two failed marriages. He released his memoir, "Not Dead & Not for Sale," in 2011.

The Stone Temple Pilots' latest album is their self-titled 2010 release. □



This CD cover image released by XL Recordings shows "Amok" by Atoms for Peace.

Associated Press

## Yorke and Flea come together in supergroup debut

**JOHN CARUCCI**  
Associated Press

Atoms for Peace, "Amok" (XL Recordings)

Since it was first used to describe the rock band Cream in the 1960s, the term supergroup hasn't always lived up to its moniker.

The idea of assembling players from different bands isn't always grand, and rarely does it produce an exponential group effort.

Cream, Audioslave and the Travelling Wilburys are a few that triumphed through the sum of its parts. But for every success story, there have been numerous all-star lineups that were too predictable and somewhat boring.

One of them is even named after a continent. But Asia aside, merging players in a band is truly a tricky business.

So it makes you wonder why Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke teamed up with Red Hot Chili Peppers' bassist Flea and others in Atoms for Peace.

The nine-song "Amok" has an experimental groove, not much different from what you would expect

from a Radiohead album, albeit one with a tad more funk thanks to Flea's sometimes adventurous bass lines. But when you throw in Yorke's distinct vocal style and have longtime Radiohead producer Nigel Godrich in the band, what did you expect it to sound like? Rounding out the quintet is Brazilian percussionist Mauro Refosco and drummer Joey Waronker, who has played with Beck and R.E.M.

While the soundscape comes as no surprise, it's the chemistry among these guys that makes it work. They complement Yorke's vocals so well that you might mistake them for a Radiohead cover band. Who cares? With this ensemble, you lose yourself in the record rather quickly. Above all, it's an album experience.

The songs mesh together nicely, making a standout track less evident. For example, the percussive layering in "Judge, Jury and Executioner" flows pleasantly into the staccato keyboard sounds on the title track. And that perfectly complements "Default," the band's first single. □



# Van Cliburn, U.S. classical pianist, dies at 78

ANGELA K. BROWN

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)

— Van Cliburn, the U.S. pianist whose triumph at a 1958 Moscow competition helped thaw the Cold War and launched a spectacular career that made him the rare classical musician to enjoy rock star status, has died. He was 78.

Cliburn died early Wednesday at his Texas home surrounded by loved ones following a battle with bone cancer, said his publicist and longtime friend Mary Lou Falcone.

The Grammy winner made what would be his last public appearance in September at the 50th anniversary of the prestigious piano competition named for him. To a roaring standing ovation, Cliburn said: "Never forget: I love you



This March 2, 2011 file photo shows President Barack Obama presenting a 2010 National Medal of Arts to pianist Van Cliburn during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

the judges to honor a foreigner: "Is Cliburn the best? Then give him first prize."

In the years that followed, Cliburn's popularity soared, and the young man sold out concerts, caused riots when spotted in public and even prompted an Elvis Presley fan club to change its name to his. His recording of the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 with Russian conductor Kirill Kondrashin became the first classical album to reach platinum status. Time magazine's 1958 cover story quoted a friend as saying Cliburn could become "the first man in history to be a Horowitz, Liberace and Presley all rolled into one."

Cliburn performed for royalty, heads of state in Europe, Asia and South America, and for every U.S. president since Harry Truman.

"Since we know that classical music is timeless and everlasting, it is precisely the eternal verities inherent in classical music that remain a spiritual beacon for people all over the world," Cliburn once said.

But he also used his skill and fame to help other young musicians through the Van Cliburn International Music Competition.

"It is a forum for young artists to celebrate the great works of the piano literature and an opportunity to expose their talents to a wide-ranging international audience," Cliburn said during the 10th competition in 1997.

Cliburn's "Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 3" won a Grammy for best classical performance in 1959, and he was awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

The Recording Academy, which bestows the awards, said Wednesday that Cliburn transcended cultural barriers and politics through the power of his music, and "his legacy will continue to have a great impact not only on classical music, but on our culture as well."

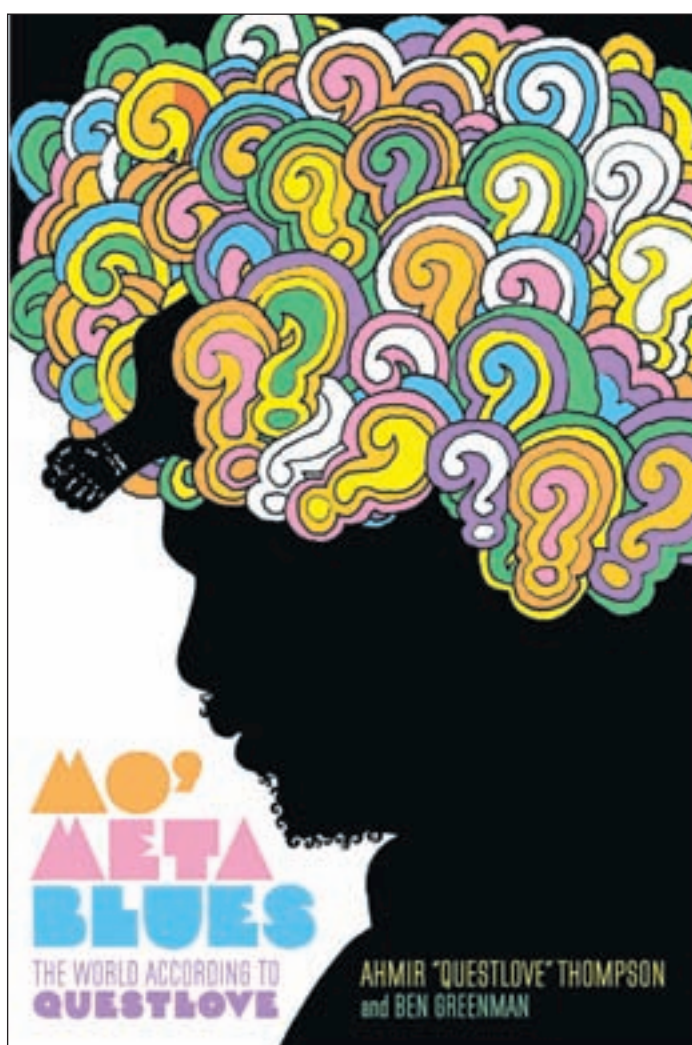
## Drummer Questlove of the Roots to release memoir

NEW YORK (AP) — Drummer-producer Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson of the Roots is adding "author" to his resume.

Thompson announced Wednesday that "Mo' Meta Blues: The World According to Questlove" will be released June 18 by Grand Central Publishing. The book includes the rap musician's run-ins with "celebrities, idols and fellow artists," including Stevie Wonder, KISS and Jay-Z. It also tackles "some of the lates, the greats, the fakes and the true originals of the music world."

The Roots are the house band for NBC's "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon." They have released 12 albums and are a favorite of music critics.

Thompson, 42, has been a producer for Jay-Z, D'Angelo, Erykah Badu and John Legend. He has four Grammy Awards.



This book cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows "Mo' Meta Blues: The World According to Questlove," by Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson and Ben Greenman.

all from the bottom of my heart, forever."

"His legacy is one of being a great humanitarian, a great musician, a great colleague, and a great friend to all who knew and loved him. Van is iconic," said Carla Kemp Thompson, chairwoman of the Van Cliburn Foundation, which hosts the competition.

Cliburn skyrocketed to fame when he won the first International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow at age 23 in 1958, six months after the Soviets' launch of Sputnik embarrassed the U.S. and propelled the world into the space age. He triumphantly returned to a New York City ticker tape parade — the first ever for a classical musician — and a Time magazine cover proclaimed him "The Texan Who Conquered Russia."

But the win also proved the power of the arts, bringing unity in the midst of strong rivalry. Despite the tension between the nations, Cliburn became a hero to music-loving Soviets who clamored to see him perform, and Premier Nikita Khrushchev reportedly gave the approval for



## The Wages Of Celibacy



FRANK BRUNI  
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The resignation of Britain's most senior Roman Catholic clergyman, accused of unwanted advances toward younger priests, will ratchet up the usual talk about lies, double lives and hypocrisy in the church, and rightly so. The church's leaders preach a purity that its own clerics can't maintain. They cast stones, and are so very far from blameless. But before we range across that sadly familiar terrain, let's give a moment's thought to loneliness. And longing. And this: the pledge of celibacy that the church requires of its servants is an often cruel and corrosive thing. It runs counter to human nature. It asks too much.

Just so we're clear: I'm not excusing priests who've sexually abused minors, or even talking principally about them. The British clergyman, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, isn't charged with any such crime. He's charged with failing to obey the moral absolutes he pronounces. And if true, the allegations represent more than yet another peek behind a false curtain of fraudulent righteousness. They're a suggestion of celibacy's foolishness, even its recklessness: of the way it warps the culture of the priesthood; of the unreasonable standard it sets. Last week, just before the allegations came to light, O'Brien raised questions about the wisdom of the church's tradition, for the last 900 years, of consigning clerics to a single, unmarried, ostensibly sexless life. He told the BBC that the next pope should consider dropping the celibacy rule, on account of how isolated clergymen can be.

"Many priests have found it very difficult to cope with celibacy as they lived out their priesthood and felt the need of a companion," said O'Brien, 74, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland. By companion, he specified a woman, and he mentioned marriage, which is technically what celibacy forbids. Chastity is a byproduct of that, since the church doesn't condone sex outside the bounds of matrimony.

Did he find it difficult to cope? The accusations against him appeared in a British newspaper, The Observer, which reported that three priests and one former priest had recently complained to Pope Benedict XVI's diplomatic representative in Britain of "inappropriate contact," an "inappropriate approach" and

other such behavior, some of it from decades ago. The cardinal has vaguely contested these charges.

According to The Observer, they were received by Benedict's representative in the week immediately preceding the pope's announcement that he would retire. Vatican observers will invariably try to connect those dots, just as they've theorized a bridge between Benedict's retirement and a rumored dossier that he supposedly got about Vatican officials who'd consorted with male hustlers. It's surely possible that a seemingly ceaseless tide of scandals contributed to his yearning for an exit.

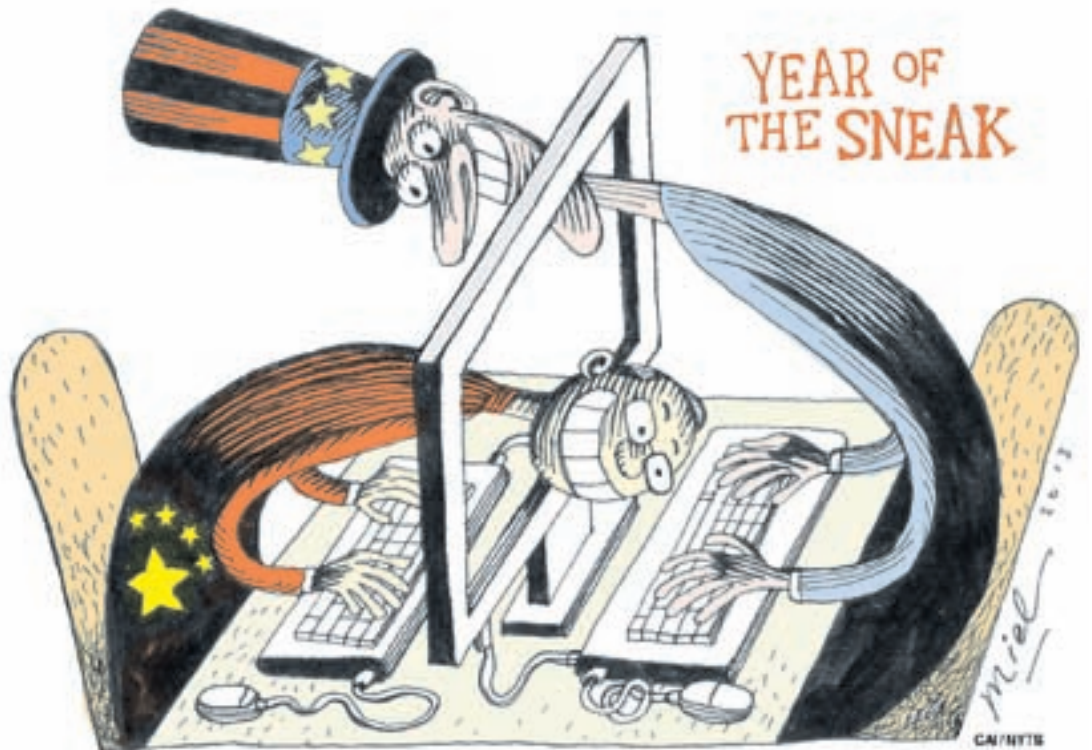
But such speculation diverts attention from a more important truth that arches over these various tales. Celibacy is a bad idea with painful consequences. It not only renders the priesthood less attractive, contributing to a shortage of priests, but also influences which men pursue ordination and how they fare.

It's a trap, falsely promising some men a refuge from sexual desires that worry them. That's one explanation for what many church experts believe is a disproportionate percentage of gay men in the priesthood. In a world that has often convinced these men that they'll be outcasts, the all-male priesthood can seem like a safe haven, and the vow of celibacy an opportunity to tuck one's sexuality away on a shelf.

The promise of celibacy most likely factored into the church's child sexual abuse crisis. Many years ago, when I wrote a book about it, more than a few mental health professionals told me that men trying to vanquish a sexual attraction to kids might well drift toward the priesthood in the hope that extra prayer and an intention of chastity would make everything right. One Catholic archbishop, Daniel Sheehan, who has since died, told me: "It could well be that a person with this kind of a hidden psychosexual problem could escape to the seminary and the like, thinking in some way that this would be a way of sublimating this problem."

No matter what a person's sexual orientation, the celibate culture runs the risk of stunting its development and turning sexual impulses into furtive, tortured gestures. It downplays a fundamental and maybe irresistible human connection. Is it any wonder that some priests try to make that connection nonetheless, in surreptitious, imprudent and occasionally destructive ways?

If the stories about O'Brien are true, you can look at him as the latest in a long line of Catholic hypocrites, his deeds in conflict with his words. That's fair enough. But you can also look at him as someone whose needs couldn't conform to a needless commitment to aloneness. And you can reserve your harshest judgment for the institution that puts him and so many others in that bind. □



## Get Off Your Cloud



MAUREEN DOWD  
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WASHINGTON — When Marissa Mayer became queen of the Yahoos last summer, she was hailed as a role model for women. The 37-year-old supergeek with the supermodel looks was the youngest Fortune 500 chief executive. And she was in the third trimester of her first pregnancy. Many women were thrilled at the thought that biases against hiring women who were expecting, or planning to be, might be melting.

A couple months later, it gave her female fans pause when the Yahoo CEO took a mere two-week maternity pause. She built a nursery next to her office at her own expense, to make working almost straight through easier. The fear that this might set an impossible standard for other women — especially women who had consigned "having it all" to unicorn status — reverberated. Even the German family minister, Kristina Schroeder, chimed in: "I regard it with major concern when prominent women give the public impression that maternity leave is something that is not important."

Almost two months after her son, Macallister, was born, Mayer irritated some women again when she bubbled at a Fortune event that "the baby's been way easier than everyone made it out to be."

"Putting 'baby' and 'easy' in the same sentence turns you into one of those mothers we don't like very much," Lisa Belkin chided in The Huffington Post.

Now Mayer has caused another fem-quake with a decision that has a special significance to working mothers. She has banned Yahoos, as her employees are known, from working at home (which some of us call "working" at home).

It flies in the face of tech companies' success in creating a cloud office rather than a conventional one. Mayer's friend Sheryl Sandberg of Facebook wrote in her new feminist manifesto, "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead," that technology could revolutionize women's lives by "changing the emphasis on strict office hours since so much work can be conducted online."

She added that "the traditional practice of judging employees by face time rather than results unfortunately persists" when it would be more efficient to focus on results.

Many women were appalled at the Yahoo news, noting that Mayer, with her penthouse atop the San Francisco Four Seasons, her Oscar de la Rentas and her \$117 million five-year contract, seems oblivious to the fact that for many of her less-privileged sisters with young children, telecommuting is a lifeline to a manageable life.

The dictatorial decree to work "side by side" had some dubbing Mayer not "the Steinem of Silicon Valley" but "the Stalin of Silicon Valley."

Mayer and Sandberg are in an elite cocoon, and in USA Today, Joanne Bamberger fretted that they are "setting back the cause of working mothers." She wrote that Sandberg's exhortation for "women to pull themselves up by the Louboutin straps" is damaging, as is "Mayer's office-only

work proclamation that sends us back to the pre-Internet era of power suits with floppy bow ties." Men accustomed to telecommuting were miffed, too.

Richard Branson tweeted: "Give people the freedom of where to work & they will excel."

While it is true that women have looked to technology as a leveling force in the marketplace, it is also true that tech innovators — even as far back as Bell Labs scientists — have designed their campuses around the management philosophy that intellectual ferment happens when you force smart people to collaborate in person and constantly bounce creative ideas off each other. Mayer has shown that she is willing to do what it takes, with no coddling. She has a huge challenge in turning around Yahoo — she was the third of three CEOs at the company in 2012 alone. She had success brainstorming face to face during her years at Google, where she was the 20th employee, the first female engineer and the shepherd of more than 100 products. The Times' Laura Holson wrote that when meeting with Google subordinates, Mayer came across like a "meticulous art teacher correcting first-semester students."

Mayer's bold move looks retro and politically incorrect, but she may feel the need to reboot the company culture, harness creativity, cut deadwood and discipline slackers before resuming flexibility.

Coming into the office, Yahoo HR chief Jackie Reses wrote in a memo, ensures that "some of the best decisions and insights come from hallway and cafeteria discussions, meeting new people, and impromptu team meetings," adding tartly that if "Yahoos" "have to stay home for the cable guy, please use your best judgment in the spirit of collaboration." □





## Vietnamese Shrimp goes from cane to cake

A dish of Vietnamese-style crispy shrimp cakes, in New York, Feb. 23, 2013. Sugar cane is the main ingredient to authentically recreating the dish, but you don't need it, unless you really want it.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

**MELISSA CLARK**

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The hardest part about making Vietnamese shrimp on sugar cane, called chao tom, is finding the sugar cane.

The shrimp part is easy: Whirl together raw shrimp and seasonings in the food processor until you get a paste (or mousse, as some recipes euphemistically call the thick mix), then pat it on pieces of sugar cane and steam it before grilling or frying.

I've eaten the dish many times in Vietnamese restaurants, where it's served as an appetizer with lettuce leaves for wrapping and a piquant nuoc cham, a mixture of fish sauce and lime juice, for dipping. After the shrimp is gone, you can gnaw on the sugar cane, sucking the sweet, watery juice as a palate cleanser. The only thing that stopped

me from authentically recreating the dish is the lack of easy access to sugar cane. True, specialty and ethnic markets far away from my house sell it. In the summer, I can probably buy some from the guy selling tropical fruit out of the back of a van near the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. (Although since I'm usually in a rush, I've yet to actually pull over and do so. But I will, I promise, as soon as the weather warms up.)

In the meantime, I've contented myself with a makeshift version, patting the shrimp paste into cakes and pan-frying them until the edges are crisp and golden.

Although traditional recipes keep the shrimp seasonings to a minimum (making up for it later with the nuoc cham), I like to spice up the paste. If my vegetable

market has lemon grass, I'll add it to the shrimp along with green chilies and scallions. Minced fresh herbs (basil, cilantro, parsley) and freshly grated ginger also work well.

Or you can keep everything simple and go with garlic, salt and sugar as flavorings. It's very adaptable.

You can serve the cakes as an appetizer wrapped in lettuce leaves or herbs (large basil leaves are wonderful in summer). I usually fry them up for dinner, heating them on rice noodles and dousing it all with nuoc cham.

And lately I've been contemplating Vietnamese shrimp sliders, sandwiching the cakes with nuoc cham-flavored mayonnaise on tiny brioche.

Perhaps one day I'll even wrap the paste around sugar cane sticks.

### VIETNAMESE-STYLE CRISPY SHRIMP CAKES

Time: 35 minutes

1 pound shelled large shrimp, coarsely chopped  
1/4 cup cornstarch, more for dusting

2 tablespoons minced lemon grass (tender inner stalk only)

2 garlic cloves, minced  
2 serrano or jalapeno chili peppers, seeded and minced

4 scallions, thinly sliced, white and light green part separated from dark green tops

1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons sugar

1 teaspoon coarse kosher salt

1/4 cup Asian fish sauce

Finely grated zest of 1 lime  
1/4 cup fresh lime juice (from 2 to 3 limes)

Peanut oil, for frying

Cooked rice noodles, optional, for serving

1/2 cup fresh cilantro

leaves, optional, for serving  
1. In the bowl of a food processor, combine shrimp, cornstarch, lemon grass, garlic, chilies, white and light green scallion bottoms, 2 teaspoons sugar and the salt. Pulse until mixture forms a coarse paste.  
2. In a small bowl, whisk together fish sauce, lime zest and juice, 1 tablespoon sugar and the dark green scallion tops.

3. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Wet hands to keep shrimp paste from sticking. Form 2 tablespoons of shrimp mixture into a 1/2-inch-thick patty. Dust patty with cornstarch. Repeat with remaining batter. Fry patties in batches until golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side. Serve over rice noodles, if desired, drizzled with fish sauce mixture and strewn with cilantro.

**Yield: 14 cakes.** □